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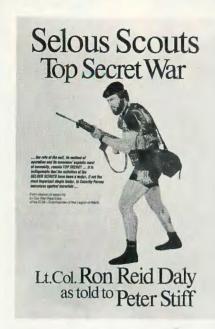
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NEW! NOW! SELOUS SCOUTS TOP SECRET WAR



Another Soldier of Fortune exclusive coup! In August 1981, Robert K. Brown flew to the Transkei where he was the first journalist ever to interview Ron Reid Daly, former commanding officer of the Selous Scouts and presently a major general commanding the Defense Force of Transkei. Concurrently, he obtained exclusive North American distribution rights for the book, Selous Scouts Top Secret War.

For the first time, the complete, inside story of the Rhodesian super-secret Selous Scouts has been told by their tough-as-teak CO. The Selous Scouts, utilizing "psuedogang concept" warfare rampaged through terrorist infiltrated territory, seeking out, tracking down and killing terrs. The Scouts also participated in some of the most daring and successful cross-border operations recorded in the annals of military history. They were credited with 68 percent of all terr KIAs!

Probably the most bloody yet successful cross-border op was the Selous strike against a terr camp located at Pungwe,

Mozambique. An air-photo reconnaisance mission over Mozambique alerted Rhodesia's high command to a buildup of terrorists at Pungwe. Then 72 Selous Scouts infiltrated Mozambique in captured, camouflaged terr vehicles, raced to Pungwe base, fooled the terrs into thinking they were a resupply convoy and then opened fire. The final body count: 1,026 terrs dead, thousands wounded. No Scouts were killed, and only five wounded.

As Reid Daly describes it in his book:

"The parade ground suddenly opened up in front of them (the Scouts). There were few men in the column who did not gasp in amazement at the sight that greeted them — thousands of terrorists on parade.

"There could never have been enough rehearsals, briefings and mental preparation to have readied them for the sight which met their eyes."

Reid Daley quotes one Scout: "I just hope we don't run out of ammunition!"

More than 4,000 unsuspecting ZANLA soldiers milled around the vehicles — "... at least one thing was crystal clear ... no one suspected they were Selous Scouts.

"Then one terrorist looked into a soldier's clearly European eyes and raised the alarm. The effect was indescribable.

"Two 20mm cannons, a .50 caliber Browning HMG, three .30 cal. Browning machine guns, one 12.7 Russian HMG and three twin 7.62 FN MAGs plus the individual infantry weapons carried

by the Scouts opened up, all at the same time.

"Hundreds of terrorists fell to the ground with the first onslaught of bullets, as though a gale force wind had blown them off their feet . . . A sustained rate of fire was maintained until all movement on the parade ground had ceased. The crew of one armored car is credited with having killed 150 terrs."

NOW AVAILABLE, 424 page, 208,000-word combat classic contains 15 color photos, 89 black and white photos, 17 maps and diagrams. It also describes the activities of the most famous American merc to serve with the Rhodesians, Maj. Jack Murphy.

Every serious student or practitioner of unconventional and guerrilla warfare needs this book in his library!

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by Ashida Kim

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EDITOR'S NOTE

As the readers of Soldier of Fortune are aware, both SOF and a great many Vietnam veterans objected to the original "minimalist" design of the Vietnam Veterans Monument. After some agitation, the "experts" agreed to add an American flag and a group of statues, representing three American "grunts," to the composition, but then crawfished by deciding to place the flag and the statues in a grove of trees 300 meters away from the rest of the monument instead of where it should be.

Several members of the Sculpture Selection Panel of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), chiefly Milton Copulos and James Webb, were not entirely enthused about the idea of hiding the American flag and the sculpture in this way, so they designed and conducted a poll at the dedication of the monument. The phrasing of the questions was examined by non-aligned experts and found not to be slanted to favor any particular response. Ten poll-taking stations were established to sample the views of the people attending the dedication of the monument; they collected 888 responses. Of these 530 were from Vietnam veterans, 96 from members of families of Vietnam veterans, and the others were from "Vietnam-era" veterans, veterans of other wars and non-veterans. Subject to various safeguards against tampering, the results were tabulated by officials of the Department of the Interior.

The message of this poll is crystal clear: 89.5 percent, including 94.2 percent of Vietnam veterans polled, feel that a U.S. flag should be prominently displayed as an integral part of the monument; 69.3 percent, including 74.1 percent of Vietnam veterans polled, specifically opted for placing the flag at the apex of the "V" of the wall, and the statues away from the trees and in front of the wall; 78.2 percent, including 84.7 percent of Vietnam veterans polled, want the monument to include an inscription making reference to the principles for which the Vietnam

veterans fought.

This number of responses constitutes a "statistically significant" sample. This is, after all, a monument to those who fought in Vietnam, not to the aesthetic sensitivities of the Fine Arts Commission and the artistic creativity of Maya Ying Lin. The results of the poll make very clear the desires and feelings of the Vietnam veterans.

After due consideration of the results of this poll, the administration has decided to set up the flag and the statues 300 meters away from the "black wall" and well hidden in the trees. There will be an inscription at the main monument. What the Vietnam veterans wanted for their monument was deemed less important than the "aesthetic integrity" of the "black gash." Once again the Washington establishment has stuck it to the Vietnam veterans. What remains is a lasting symbolic record of what really went wrong with the war, and of the attitude of the holders of power toward the expendable cannon-fodder who fought the war for them in Vietnam.

The battle is not over until we say it is. The President has power, by proclamation, to place the flag and the statues where they ought to be. Now is the time for every Vietnam veteran who cares about this issue to write to the President, urging him to take this action. "The White House, Washington, D.C." will do for an address. Every letter counts — especially yours. Do it now.

- Robert K. Brown

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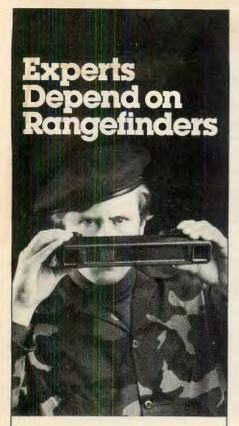
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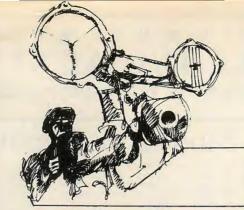
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FLAK

BOBBY'S RECRUITER ...

Sirs:

Funny how these things go. I was just thinking about "Bobby" Nguyen yesterday, and today I ran across the article about him, "May Buddha Bless Bobby," by John Padgett (SOF, October '82). It was the first I had heard of his death.

My team sergeant and I originally recruited Bobby off the streets of Qui Nhon in 1965. He was about 13 years old then, and was being watched after by the headgirl in one of the better whore houses of the period.

We needed an interpreter, and Bobby could speak better English than the two we had. We were kind of worried about his age, but Bobby was all for it, and his acting "mother" didn't mind. So we took him out to our A-team at our camp at Vinh Tanh.

Everything Padgett says about Bobby in the article was evident from the start. The kid was fearless — both of the enemy and of the LLDB (who hated him, I think, for his courage).

The last place I ran into Bobby was when he was with CCC in 1970. I was at camp Dak Pek and had gone into Kontum for a little rape and rampage. Bobby happened to pile into a jeep I was in and we recognized each other. After filling me in on what he had been up to the past few years, he told me: "Sgt. Wade, if you hadn't taken me out to Vinh Tanh with you that day, now I'd just be an old fucked-up ARVN private." He was very happy with his life.

After Vietnam fell, I read a short note in the SF Association newsletter, *The Drop*. It was from Bobby, saying that he had made it to the United States and was looking for some help getting a job.

I was amazed. That boy is a *real* survivor, I thought to myself.

But I guess his luck ran out. At least he went out doing something he enjoyed and was good at.

SFC Leigh F. Wade Little Rock, Arkansas

NATIONAL GUARD ...

Sirs:

In the July 1982 issue of Soldier of Fortune, Alexander M.S. McColl did our Na-

tional Guard a great injustice by saying that its members found a perfectly legal way to dodge the draft.

I was a member of the Army National Guard. I joined in 1955 at the age of 17. At that time the Korean War wasn't yet over and I wasn't old enough to be registered for the draft.

A good many National Guardsmen had already been called up in the Korean War where, with obsolete and sloppy logistics, they held back a determined enemy until we could train enough men to force a halt to the war.

Quite a few of the Guard at that time were either too old or too young to be drafted. There weren't any draft dodgers in the Guard at that time. If the war had continued, we knew we would be called up soon.

There were quite a few names of men who lost their lives in service to this country on bronze plaques on the walls of the Armory, and I think calling them draft dodgers is an insult to their memories.

Donald V. Perrine Gaffney, South Carolina

SOF has the greatest respect for the National Guard and the other reserve components of the U.S. armed forces. The record of National Guard divisions in both World Wars is most distinguished, and the pages of SOF have frequently and favorably reported the activities of National Guard and other reserve component units.

All of which does not change the fact that enlistment in a National Guard or other reserve component unit was a widely used and perfectly legal way to avoid being drafted during the Vietnam War. For a number of years after the discontinuation of the draft in 1972, many reserve component units were largely composed of people who enlisted chiefly for this reason.

The very great improvement in the motivation, quality and effectiveness of the reserve components, which we have all seen in the last 10 years, is in large measure due to the fact draft avoidance is no longer a motivation for enlisting.—Alexander McColl 突







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DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

Soft Body Armor

by Ken Hackathorn

YOU can hardly read a paper or news magazine without finding something about bullet-proof vests and deadly armorpiercing bullets. Soft body armor made of ballistic nylon or aramid fibers first became popular with police, but it was soon picked up by businessmen, bodyguards, movie stars and — of course — criminals. And that's where the armor-piercing bullets come in.

Drug-dealers and bandit bikers are notorious for wearing good soft body armor, but they aren't the only ones. Nearly every class of criminal is learning the advantages of having a bullet-proof torso. If the punk didn't figure it out for himself the first time around, he surely heard the word from older hands after he once landed in jail.

"Hardened criminal" has acquired a new meaning — and the beat cop who once felt secure with his service firearm is beginning to have nightmares about the bad guys who absorb solid sternum shots and keep running and shooting. Police training and street practice have yet to catch up.

Naturally enough, the first thing is to get your own armor. It's hot, it can chafe, it makes you look fatter, but ordinary soft body armor will stop most handgun bullets, except for special armor-piercers. SOF has carried advertisements and plugs for soft armor over the years, so it shouldn't be hard to find something that works and fits your budget.

Next, you need different ammunition to deal with this new threat. Higher velocity frangible bullets — especially hollow-points — were the answer of the past decades to studies that showed limited lethality of the cop's stock .38. Unfortunately, these rounds are even less effective at penetrating body armor than the slow, large-diameter .45 ACP.

Speed and resistance to deformation are the requirements for a bullet to go through soft armor. The best stock loads that fill that bill are jacketed 9mm Parabellum, .38 Super and .357. Still, I wouldn't recommend armor-piercers as your standard load for a service pistol, since these are the loads most likely to punch through an animal-tissue target without either expending all their energy or making a very big hole.

There are special armor-piercing pistol loads — notably military-surplus Czech 9x19mm and the infamous KTW Teflon bullet — but none of them does the job like standard rifle ammo. If you think that you are likely to meet bandits in body armor on



Hematoma marks the spot where cop wearing soft body armor took sternum shot. Photo: Loren Christensen

a call, most any standard ball cartridges in 7.62 NATO or 5.56 will punch fine holes in cloth vests.

The real answer to the body-armor problem is training, not technology. When called upon to defend yourself or others, first shoot twice at the center of mass. If the attacker does not fall, lift your sights to line up on the bridge of the nose or the eye sockets and fire. If he has turned to offer only a sidelong view of the head, aim for the ear canal. From the rear, focus on the base of the skull.

For men who have been under fire, this sounds like fancy shooting when their lives are passing before their eyes. It is. The only way to do it is to practice. You can do it if the drill becomes a conditioned reflex: something you don't think about.

Start with a head-and-torso target at the easy range of five yards. Starting from the ready position, bring the pistol up to the target's "sternum" and fire two quick shots. Hesitate as long as you would to see if he were falling, lift your gun to the head and place one in the center. An acceptable time for this drill is three seconds.

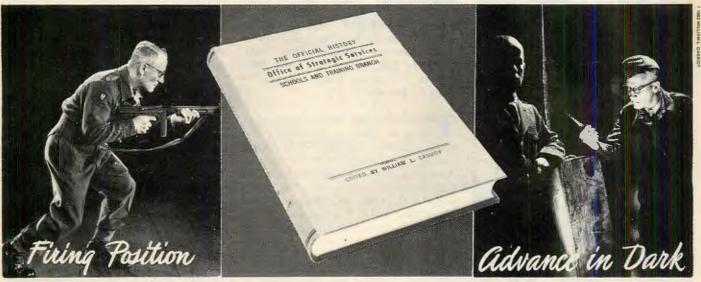
When it's easy at five, move back to seven yards and practice until you're under the three-second limit. Finally, when you have mastered the technique, practice the drill from a relaxed pose, gun holstered and hands clear.

Pistols weren't designed to defeat body armor; body armor was designed to defeat pistols. The only safe way out is not to play the game. If the black-hats have body armor, use a rifle. If you can't get a rifle, don't shoot the body armor. **X

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REVIEW



THE THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUN. By Roger A. Cox. Law Enforcement Ordnance Company, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1547, Athens, GA 30603. 1982. 300 pp. Illustrated, \$29.95. Review by Peter G. Kokalis.

HIS engrossing book frustrates almost as much as it titillates. The original 15,000 Model 1921/28 Thompson submachine guns produced by Colt for Auto Ordnance rank beside the Luger and Colt Peacemaker as all-time great classics in both mystique and design execution. The subject matter is compelling, but we find ourselves unconsciously downplaying Cox's faulty preparation of so magnificent a banquet.

And flawed it is. Sentences stop in midstream; spelling and grammatical errors abound; anecdotes are repeated two and sometimes three times; information is placed under incorrect headings; in general, the photographs are atrocious in quality, extremely repetitive and often not germane. But we are forced to forgive Cox his faults, as the book contains valuable information found in no other.

Fortunately, he corrects almost immediately the myth — perpetrated by so many gun writers — that World War II British troops often threw away the bronze Blish H-piece (based on the dubious concept which initiated development of the Thompson) and found the gun operated just as well without it. These fine writers, with which the gun world is so replete, have obviously never disassembled a 1921/28 Thompson, for the Blish lock holds the bolt and actuator together and is an essential part of the mechanism.

The chapters, "Models, Markings and Variations" and "Magazines and Accessories," are by themselves worth the price of the book to any potential collector of "tommyguns." For, be advised, the wolves are out there waiting to part the unknowledgeable from his money with their rebarreled, reblued, wrong-parts Thompsons. As the supply of original Colt Thompsons dwindles, counterfeiting will increase and the encyclopedic information which Cox imparts is the novice's only assurance that he is not getting bilked by that pack of swine who thrive on the ignorance of others.

Cox corrects once and for all the confusion about which varieties of the Cutts compensator are correct for Colt Thompsons. He tells us where to look for the hidden serial numbers on the butt stock and what the original Colt actuator knobs, fire-select and safety levers look like. Drums and magazines are described in such detail as to open a whole new area for collectors.

The chapter, "Gangsters and Bank Robbers," is only a brief summary of information found in William J. Helmer's The Gun That Made the Twenties Roar. The "Police and FBI" chapter, however, offers some tantalizing leads concerning the still-possible whereabouts of the greatest source of collector's Thompsons: local police departments.

The purchase of Thompsons by the coal mining, steel and other industries is detailed for the first time in print, as is the revealing information that the Chicago Tribune purchased 21AC 7369 on 8 January 1934 and on 14 May of the same year the New York Daily News bought two 21ACs: 7138 and 7588. Neither of these paragons of anti-gun polemics will admit any knowledge of their interestingly

hypocritical acquisitions.

Under "The Legal Aspects of Ownership." Cox discusses BATF ruling 74-8 which, since 1973, has prevented police departments from transferring to Class 3 dealers previously unpapered Title II firearms which they registered via the special BATF Form 10. Since many police agencies acquired their Thompsons prior to enactment of the National Firearms Act of 1934 and never bothered to register them, Cox is correct in asserting that many Thompsons remain in limbo — terribly outdated for modern law-enforcement use and yet unavailable to collectors.

Although not a defender of the BATF, in the interest of truth I must point out, as Cox does not, the incident which prompted ruling 74-8. A certain Class 3 dealer turned over dozens of unpapered contraband machine guns to a cooperative and quite unscrupulous sheriff's department which registered them via BATF Form 10 and then promptly transferred them to the dealer, who increased his inventory of legal, registered machine guns accordingly. This certainly was not the intent of the law; Ruling 74-8 attempted to close this loophole, Consequently, we all must suffer from the churlish greed of a few men.

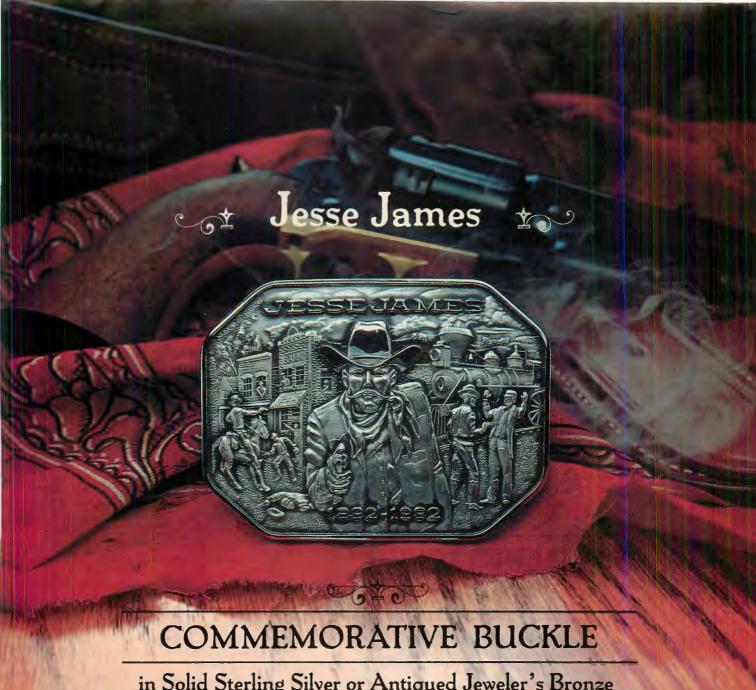
Cox's text ends with a list of the original purchasers of 1,282 of the original 15,000 Colt Thompsons. This list should prove valuable to collectors who wish to learn the background of their guns or ones they have an interest in acquiring — if they are fortunate enough to find them here. We encourage readers to forward data they have on Colt Thompsons that do not appear on Cox's list in the interest of making future editions more complete.

The final portion of the book reprints six manuals and catalogs. The half-tone illustrations have been excellently reproduced. Anyone with more than a passing interest in the Thompson submachine gun should own this book, despite its imperfections. Highly recommended - with the noted reservations. 交

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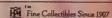
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IT HAPPENED TO ME

Kaput In Kolwezi

by Rolf Tanzig as told to M.L. Jones

Rolf Tanzig was a soldier in the French Foreign Legion from December 1975 through March 1979. He served in the 1st Company, 2nd Regiment Etrangere de Parachutistes (REP), until his retirement due to poor health. He now lives in Switzerland. As he tells it:

ON 19 May 1978, at 1540, we of the 1st Company of the 2nd REP jumped out of our Transall C-160. In front of me lay Kolwezi, a mining center in Africa. It was our task to free European hostages from the hands of communist rebels who had invaded Zaire to overthrow the pro-Western government of President Mobutu. We soon were welcomed by the first bursts from the rebels' outposts, but our boys soon overwhelmed the enemy.

The communists were really surprised and either fled in panic or kicked the bucket. There was no coordinated resistance, and we advanced very fast. If you suspected a rebel was lurking behind a bush, you knew a round would solve the problem.

Our company, led by Capt. Poule, was to capture the John XXIII College, situated at the town's southern edge. There was a rumor that the rebels held about a hundred hostages there and that they intended to massacre them.

When we entered the deserted streets of the town, they were piled with litter, broken furniture and beheaded corpses; the smell was awful. Nobody except us moved through the streets. It was a real ghost town; the silence was broken only by a few explosions and salvoes.

Soon we reached the narrow, dirty streets of the Malinka slums, an ideal place for an ambush. Here the destruction was not as severe as it had been in the European quarter. We arrived at a crossroad, which was a little larger than the other slum streets. The crossing was dominated by a massive stone building, obviously a former police station. In front of the house stood a damaged jeep.

Before I started to cross the open street I sensed something was wrong — but I did not react to my instinct's warning. A few seconds later, when two or three buddies and I were standing in the middle of the crossing, hell opened its doors. At least three submachine guns opened fire from the police station. Those of us at the company's top were in a pretty hot situation. Our backmen withdrew to the street entry and began to shoot back with their FA MASs and AA 52s.

I hurried to the jeep behind which my buddies Meyer and Tarrou were lying — and was happy to arrive. The firing increased, and it now came from two further houses as well.

Tarrou shouted for fire support, but our men at the street entry could not understand him, because the noise was too loud. But even without Tarrou's message, they knew what to do in this situation. We all were real professionals. A shell, fired by one of our bazookas, hit the front of the building and I took advantage of the momentary confusion of the enemy.

Leaving the jeep's shelter, I rushed toward the building. I couldn't see anything because of the smoke, but I reacted as I had been taught for the last 2½ years at the Legion's training camps. I reached the wall of the police station and slipped through the front door, probably left open by Tarrou and Meyer.

The corridor was full of smoke. To my right I saw a locked door. I smashed it with the butt of my gun and sent a round into the room. When silence came again, I heard a man groaning inside. I stepped in, moving carefully.

It wasn't as smoky as in the corridor, but I couldn't see much because my eyes were still full of tears from the smoke. I blinked and finally was able to see that my round had killed a tall black, who lay next to a FN FAL. On his chest I found a medal with a blue-white ribbon and a sort of coin that showed the portrait of a fat Negro wearing glasses. I picked it up because I had always liked such things.

I left the building and reported to Capt. Poule. He asked me what I had in my left hand, and I showed him the medal.

"That's all that's left of that black singe [monkey]," I said proudly.

Poule looked at me. He yelled, "You got the wrong one. That guy here," and he pointed at the portrait on the decoration, "is Mobutu, you bloody idiot. You hit a Zairois!"

All I could answer was: "Merde!" 冥

F you have a personal adventure for "It Happened to Me" or "I Was There," triple-space type it and send it to SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306, Attn: M.L. Jones. All stories should be 500 words or less. Upon publication, SOF will become owner of all publication rights. Submitted articles are subject to editing and revision, although their content and theme will not be changed.

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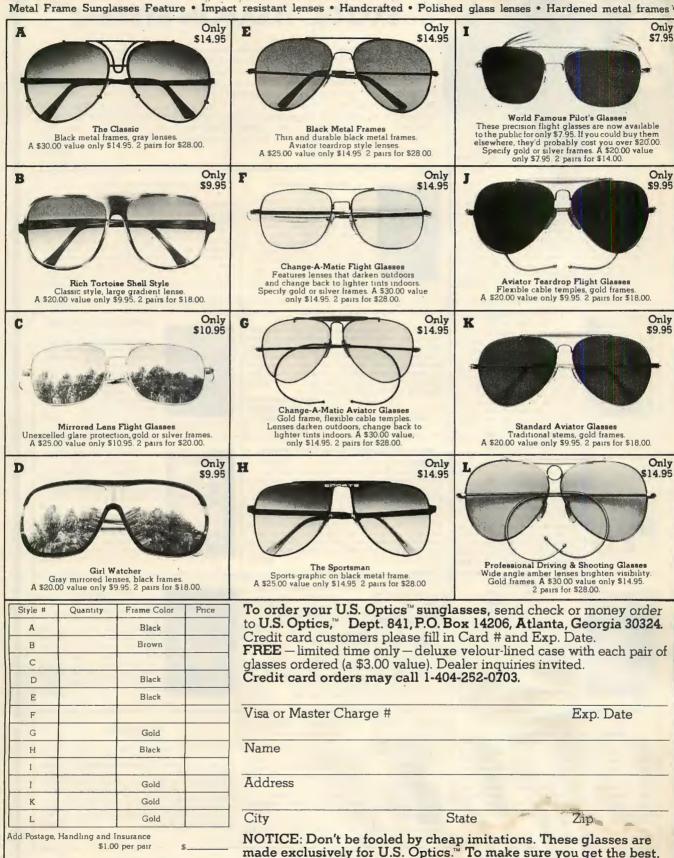
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A NGOLAN IRONY ...

The Portuguese Army occupied South West Africa for 400 years. They

may go back, soon.

Portuguese Prime Minister Francisco Pinto Balsameo recently announced to the General Assembly of the United Nations that Portugal would welcome any role it might be asked to play in the settlement of the Namibian question, and South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) chief Sam Nujoma has said he would welcome the Portuguese. Portuguese forces would constitute part of the UN Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG) installed as a buffer between SWAPO raiders and defending South African Army units while the United States, South Africa, Angola and the United Nations try to solve the problem of what to do with Namibia.

The UN always wants volunteers to stand between fighting armies, the United States is glad it's not us, Angola thinks the Portuguese might be more aggressively neutral than other peacekeepers, and Lisbon is eager for enhanced diplomatic importance and an opportunity to use UN support to help rebuild a military that has become depleted and rusty since the end of colonial days. The Portuguese Army should be good at its work since it successfully fought similar people over similar ground in Angola off and on for several hundred years, until an anti-colonialist military coup in 1974 forced withdrawal from Portugal's African colonies.

Many Portuguese former colonists left Angola when Portugal withdrew, and resettled in South Africa, so there should be empathy between the Portuguese and the South Africans. In any case, it is unlikely that the nearly 20,000 Cuban troops in Angola can teach the Portuguese anything new about guerrilla warfare in Africa.

M EMORIAL FOR VETS, BY VETS ...

The Society of American Vietnam Veterans, Inc., a non-profit organization, has been formed in Florida for the purpose of constructing a memorial park dedicated to the bravery and personal sacrifices of the American men and women who served in the Vietnam War. According to Tyrone McLeod, former medic with the 655th Medical Evacuation Squadron and president and spokesman for the group, "Vietnam veterans are not pleased with the existing monument in Washington, D.C. It is a cold, hard, impersonal slab of stone that fails to create the proper atmosphere for reflection and identification. As opposed to the Washington memorial, which was designed by a person who

BULLETIN BOARD

by Bob Poos and John Metzger



had no military service and which was approved by bureaucrats, our concept was developed by veterans."

McLeod told SOF that the design is still in the planning stages. "The monument will try to capture an assortment of ingredients, especially the combat aspect, with soldiers depicted in a fire fight helping a wounded buddy. The unconventional, jungle-style warfare will be a strong theme in the monument, with powerful overtones of heroism, compassion and camaraderie," he said.

McLeod said that the group is looking for a site for the park, hopefully in Florida, since the weather conditions are ideal for year-round visitation. It will cover a minimum of 25 acres. Also to be constructed in the park will be a non-denominational chapel, an administrative center providing comfort facilities, a military museum, flower gardens and a crystal pool in memory to those who are still listed as missing in action. The park will be open throughout the year, and there will be no charge for entry.

Vietnam veterans interested in contributing can become lifetime members by sending one dollar to the Society of American Vietnam Veterans, Inc., 1926 Hollywood Blvd., Suite A23, Hollywood, FL 33020, phone:

Soldier of Fortune Executive Editor Bob Poos was a Marine rifleman in Korea, and went on to cover the war in Vietnam for the Associated Press. In November 1982, he went to Washington to cover the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial for SOF. But he didn't just cover the story. Poos, along with 150,000 vets, was swept up in the emotion of the event — a ceremony 14 years overdue. For the first time, America has honored the Vietnam veteran. See "Finally, Our Day" on p. 64. Photo: Ron Shumate

(305) 920-2222, Extension 23. Any other person can join as an associate member for \$2. After the memorial is completed, the society plans to have a comprehensive program to address the issues that really matter to the Vietnam vet. A quarterly newsletter is planned as well.

SOF urges our readers to join the society — it can't construct a truly honorable monument without the help of all of you.

● VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK ●



Proposed design for Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park. When completed, park will cover approximately 25-acre area, where visitors can view a monument capturing the heroic spirit of men in battle year-round.

WHAT ELSE WE LOST IN 'NAM ...

Ever wonder how much hardware we left back in Vietnam? Well, it's a stunning amount — coming out at around \$5 billion worth. Rather than go into how we should have been more careful about leaving things around the country, SOF has compiled a list of what we left, using reliable sources:

SMALL ARMS	
	704 000
M16 rifles	
Other rifles	857,580
.45-caliber pistols.	90,000
M60 machine guns	50,000
M79 grenade launch	ners47,000
Mortars (all sizes) .	12,000
M72 LAWs	63,000
ARTILLERY	
M107 (175mm)	80
105mm Towed How	
155mm Howitzers (
self-propelled)	250
RADIOS	
All types	48,000
TRUCKS	
All types	
TANKS/APCs	,
M41A3	300
M48A3	
M113/M113A1	
AMMUNITION	
All types, in tons	130 000
SHIPS	
All types	940
HELICOPTERS	
UH-1	430
CH-47	
AIRCRAFT	
A-37	113
F-5A/B	
F-5E	22
A-1	36
C-130A	10
C-119	
C-7	
0-1/0-2	
C-47	
U-41	

ARINES TEST BUNKER BUSTER ...

The Marine Corps is currently testing a new weapon at Camp Lejeune: The Shoulder-launched, Multi-purpose Assault Weapon (SMAW). The Corps has lacked a real bunker buster for rifle platoons ever since it phased out the 3.5-inch rocket launcher; the SMAW is in the running to alleviate this problem. If adopted, it will replace the M-202 incendiary rocket in the weapons platoon of each rifle company.

An \$11 million research and development contract with the McDonnell-Douglas Corporation was signed in May 1982, and the SMAW may see field deployment as early as 1984. The warhead itself, called the Mark 1-18 MOD 'O,' has already been approved. The projectile - particularly suited for urban combat - is "dual-mode," and actually senses the density of a target automatically upon impact. For example, when the 81mm rocket-propelled warhead hits a hard target such as steel or concrete, detonation is immediate; but when impacting a softer surface, such as an earth- or sandbag-reinforced bunker, detonation is delayed until the round has ac-

tually penetrated the target. Alternate warheads providing flame and smoke may be developed later.

"We can no longer think exclusively of fighting on a Pacific isle or in a Vietnam-type environment," said Maj. Gen. Harold Glasgow, Director of Operations, HQ Marine Corps. "As we look to satisfy requirements for a global mission, we have to think in terms of fighting in cities."



SMAW for the future? Marines are testing this urban-combat weapon at Camp Lejeune.

Designed around a 14-pound reusable launching tube, the SMAW has an accurate sighting system that will allow trained gunners to hit even small targets at ranges out to 250 meters. The launcher itself has not been accepted, and will probably undergo more changes before field deployment. It will be fitted with a spotting rifle that fires a tracer round to give the gunner an idea of aim before triggering the main projectile.

VAN'S INVASION PLANS? ...

Despite media attention to Israel's bombing of the PLO in West Beirut and the efforts of American negotiator Philip Habib to mediate a settlement, evidence of direct Soviet participation in preparation for an Arab communist invasion of the non-communist Middle East has been virtually ignored in news reports to the American public.

According to Israeli Ambassador Moshe Arens, "The quantity of Soviet equipment that we have discovered in PLO stockpiles — in every one of the emplacements where the PLO established itself — that quantity was beyond our expectation and almost beyond our belief. What we found was 10 times as large as Israeli intelligence had estimated prior to the operation." Who were these weapons for? The caches were so large, according to the minister of information at the Israeli Embassy, Zvi H. Hurwitz, that "thousands and thousands of soldiers could have been supplied. The PLO could not possibly have used so much equipment for occa- Continued on page 91

sional hit-and-run operations against Israeli civilians."

Documents captured from PLO positions clearly show that the terrorist organization is an essential tool of communist subversion in virtually every Western nation, and that it functions directly in worldwide Soviet military strategy. Among the documents found was a list of various communist and Third World countries that provide training for the terrorists. PLO personnel were trained in air defense by Vietnam, in tank and armor tactics by Hungary and engineering by communist China. Some PLO officers attended military academies in Russia, Bulgaria, East Germany, North and South Yemen, Pakistan, Algeria and India. Also found was a graduation certificate for a terrorist from a Vietnamese military school, and the certificate of a PLO tank commander from a Soviet school.

Other documents describe PLO assistance to terrorist groups in Mali and Niger, and PLO training programs provided to groups from Malawi, South Africa, El Salvador, Haiti, Zimbabwe and Turkey. It was also evident that the PLO has close ties to every major terror group in Europe, including Italy's Red Brigade, the IRA in Ireland and the Baader-Meinhof gang in Germany.

Israel's capture of the arms caches may have saved Israel and her neighbors from invasion. And as the Sovs watched Israeli jets knock out Syrian anti-aircraft positions with American equipment, they probably wondered what they were going to do now. By demonstrating that American technology can destroy what were thought to be the most effective antiaircraft systems in the world, the Israelis have forced Ivan to re-evaluate a significant portion of his plans for the Middle East.

For a report on exactly what was captured in PLO stockpiles, see Bulletin Board, "PLO: Arms and the Men," SOF, December '82.

ORLD'S RAREST SMG ...

Before we begin to get offers on Pete Kokalis's 9mm Makarov PPSh, it should be noted that the picture attached to the Full Auto column in the January '83 issue of SOF was mislabeled. The PPSh was never made for the low-pressure 9mm Russian pocket-pistol round.

The most numerous SMG of all time was made in 7.62x25mm - a high-pressure and high-velocity auto pistol cartridge - but a few were made in 9mm Parabellum. The Kokalis's collection holds the 7.62 model.

CARL Walther Waffenfabrik in Ulm/Donau, Germany, did not begin development of a submachine-gun design until the 1950s. The final result, Walther's Model MPL, introduced 20 years ago in 1963, possesses some intriguing features.

Firing from the open-bolt position, the MPL's unique bolt carries most of its mass above and forward of the bolt face. The bolt does not telescope around the barrel, as is so often the case nowadays, but rather, the upper portion rides in a channel of the sheet-metal receiver housing above the barrel. This peculiar arrangement provides a compact package and reduces muzzle climb significantly. The bolt is aligned within the receiver by an extremely long mainspring guide rod which passes through the bolt and extends the entire length of the receiver. Two longitudinal cuts on the bolt serve as receiver guides and collect debris and brass shavings.

The trigger housing assembly is also constructed of a heavy sheet-metal stamping with an integral magazine well. The magazine well's lips are funnel-shaped for rapid magazine insertion, even in the dark. The magazine catch release is of the flapper type.

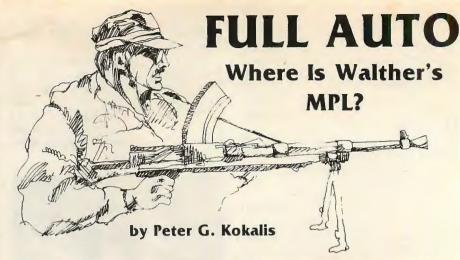
Blowback-operated with fixed firing pin, the MPL uses advanced primer ignition, in which the bolt is still driving the cartridge forward when primer ignition occurs. Thus, part of the recoil energy is used to overcome the bolt's forward momentum. Because of this, the bolt's mass can be less than otherwise required, as only a portion of the recoil energy remains to drive it rearward.

The MPL's cyclic rate is 550 rpm. The selector switch is conveniently located on both the right and left sides of the trigger housing, directly above the plastic grip panels. When the selector lever is moved to the "S" position, the trigger remains locked whether the bolt is open or closed. Semiautomatic fire occurs when the lever is placed on "E" (einzeln in German, or "single"). The full-auto mode is marked "D" (doppel, or double).

The cocking handle is of the non-reciprocating type, quite similar to that of the Beretta Model 38/42. However, it can be locked to the bolt by continual inward pressure if it becomes necessary to work the bolt by hand when clearing a malfunction. The bolt can be retracted to the open position with the safety on. Fortunately, there is no grip safety on the MPL, but — like the UZI — there is a bolt safety which blocks the forward travel of the bolt if it is released accidentally during an incomplete cocking motion.

The MPL's plastic-covered, metal-tube skeleton stock folds to the right. It is held in the extended position by a sturdy spring-loaded catch. When folded, the butt end of the stock becomes a vertical fore-grip for firing in the hip-assault position.

Unloaded weight of the MPL is only 6.6 pounds. With a barrel length of 10¼ inches, the length of the weapon with folded stock is a mere 18.1 inches.





Prophet With Honor, Walther MPL (Maschinenpistole "Lang") saw little use outside West Germany. Robust and reliable, it is still available to American dealers. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis

Two pairs of sights are provided, both set at 100 meters. Normally, the rear peep sight is utilized with the front post sight. Under dim light conditions, the upper open-notch rear sight is used with the top of the front sight protector. The front post sight can be adjusted for elevation.

Aesthetically, the Walther MPL is certainly one of the ugly ducklings of the submachine-gun world. Yet, it is robust and reliable. The grip-to-frame angle is correct and the grip assembly is of more than generous size. The selector switch can easily be moved off safe to the full or semiauto modes without shifting the hand on the grip, an important but frequently neglected attribute. The MPL will function flawlessly if provided a diet of the slightly higher pressure European 9mm ammunition.

A model called the MPK, identical in every way to the MPL except that it is 3½ inches shorter, was also produced. The ventilated forearm area of its sheet-metal receiver exhibits a pronounced tendency to become uncomfortably overheated dur-

ing extended firing sequences.

Although cost effective and loaded with innovative features, the Walther MPL is no longer in production. It was adopted only by the West German border police and a few police and naval units scattered throughout the world. Why? The freeworld marketplace is overloaded with some pretty sophisticated competition—like the UZI, Heckler & Koch MP5, Steyr MPi69, Beretta M12S and the Sterling.

Selling a submachine-gun design in the face of such fierce opposition requires a well-developed international sales and promotion staff, large-scale funding and no small amount of power politics at the highest governmental levels. Neither Walther nor Smith & Wesson could cut the submachine-gun mustard. S&W produced only slightly more than 5,000 of the Model 76 before folding its tent on that project. The dozens of independent designers who fantasize that their 9mm blowback submachine guns dressed in superficially new exterior packages will carry them to wealth and fame should take heed of the fate of the fine Walther MPL.

Walther MPLs in excellent condition are available to qualified Class 3 dealers and law-enforcement agencies from AR-MEX International (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 252, Broderick, CA 95605) for only \$225. The shorter MPK version is \$25 more.

Here's something you don't usually see in armor ads . . .

HARD FACTS

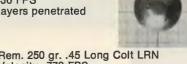
A lot of armor makers seem bent on keeping you from knowing much about their products. We don't see it that way. If you are going to stake your life on something, we think you need to know as much as possible about it. So read on.

There are nine layers of 31 x 31 count, 1,000 denier, Zepel-D© treated Kevlar© 29 in each SILENT PART-NER® armor insert — exactly the style and weave of Kevlar recommended in the 1977 NILECJ study that set the national standard for police armor. A lot of manufacturers cut their cost by using something less.

We have one quarrel with that study. It says the most powerful round you need to worry about on the street is the .38 Spl. 158 gr. round-nose lead projectile. Since 20 percent of all police officers killed in the line of duty are shot with their own or their partner's gun, that's not very realistic.

Here's a rogue's gallery of rounds recovered from a standard nine-layer SILENT PARTNER insert under NILECJ test standards. (A more detailed report, covering the full range of rounds tested, comes with your armor.)

> Rem. 230 gr. .45 ACP FMC Velocity: 836 FPS No armor layers penetrated



Rem. 250 gr. .45 Long Colt LRN Velocity: 770 FPS No layers penetrated

Rem. 210 gr. .41 Magnum LSWC Velocity: 994 FPS No layers penetrated



Rem. 158 gr. .357 Magnum JHP Velocity: 1,151 FPS One layer penetrated

Fed. 123 gr. 9mm Para. FMC Velocity: 1,069 FPS Three layers penetrated



Rem. 115 gr. 9mm Para. JHP Velocity: 1,161 FPS Two layers penetrated

W/W 115 gr. 9mm Para. Silvertip Velocity: 1,190 FPS No layers penetrated



S&W 125 gr. .38 Spl. Nyclad Velocity: 1,001 FPS No layers penetrated

W/W 40 gr. .22 Magnum JHP Velocity: 1,210 FPS Two layers penetrated



CCI 32 gr. .22 LR Stinger Velocity: 1,283 FPS Two layers penetrated

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by John Metzger

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If you do enough indoor shooting, you've probably seen — or felt — bullets carom off the bullet trap back into the room. Though normally just irritating, ricochets can be genuinely dangerous. Laminations Corporation sells a bullet trap that cannot reflect bullets.

* Laminations' Bulletboard line was invented by former furniture-factory worker Larry Bricco. Bricco took pieces of fiberboard used to make institutional furniture, and fabricated cheap, durable targets for his own use. From the original inexpensive silhouettes — with the furniture company's support — Bricco's friend and associate Dick Anguin developed the Bulletrap (right).

It is a sturdy 70-pound fiberboard box measuring 20.25 inches on a side and 13





inches deep. A front baffle, three central one-inch baffles, and a back baffle, supported by one-eighth-inch pea gravel will stop any conventional shoulder- or hand-fired bullet. Although *Laminations* claims a 3,500 fps and 3,400 foot/pound limit on cartridges for regular use, SOF has tested its Bulletrap with all conventional pistol loads and rifle cartridges up to H&H .360 Number Two with perfect performance.

Directions must be followed carefully. Use washed pea gravel to keep dust down. Sand is an inadequate replaced ment for one-eighth gravel, since it will run out of the facing baffle after firing a few rounds. The front baffle should be replaced after a few hundred rounds leave holes large enough for pea gravel to run out freely; you may also tape heavy cardboard over the front, since the face baffle does little to stop most bullets.

Laminations also makes a hinged-bottom, aluminum-reinforced, reuseable, knock-down silhouette (above). Asked by police departments to make a silhouette that would help cops practice against attackers in body armor, Bricco and his associates had another brainstorm, and simply cut away the part of the silhouette that would have been covered by the armor. Now, the shooter has to hit a target area that would be vulnerable to bullets to knock the target down.

Construction is solid, but prices are low. The complete Bulletrap is \$89.50 and knockdown Bulletboards start at \$38.50. For ordering and information, contact Laminations Corporation, Dept. SOF, Box 469, Neenah, WI 54956.



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EDITORIAL

Jane Fonda: From Hollywood to Hanoi and Back

by Tom Carhart

N the spring of 1983, Jane Fonda is riding high: Her exercise book is at the top of the bestseller lists, her exercise salons are booming with business, and her golden reputation as an actress is growing almost daily. The political ambition of her husband, Tom Hayden, was furthered by his winning the Democratic primary for the California State Assembly seat from Santa Monica. Hayden will not allow his defeat in the November 1982 election to stand in the way of his dream of reaching the White House. To many Americans, Fonda is the genuine all-American woman, the pride and glory of her generation, and she would be the ideal first lady. But to many of us who served in Vietnam, she presents a somewhat different image, one replete with uncomfortable memories that just won't go

Yes, Fonda opposed the Vietnam War, and sure, she could even be called a super-liberal, but that's true of many patriotic Americans — what makes her so different from other liberals?

While most Americans realize that Fonda was active in the antiwar movement, many seem to have ignored or forgotten the words she used or acts she performed in that role. On 22 November 1970, she told Michigan State students: "If you understood what communism was, you would hope, you would pray on your knees that we would someday become communist." On 11 December 1970, she told Duke University students much the same thing: "I am a socialist, therefore I think we should strive toward a socialist society, all the way to communism. I would think that if you understood what communism was, you would hope and pray on your knees that we would someday become communist."

While she was in Hanoi in July 1972, she posed in the gunner's seat of an active North Vietnamese antiaircraft gun used to shoot down American aircraft. Pictures of this event have been widely distributed, and it is hard to think of any stronger depiction of a citizen's armed opposition to U.S. military forces.

During that trip, she made a number of Radio Hanoi broadcasts to U.S. servicemen, asking them in very blunt terms to abandon the war effort and turn against their "war criminal" commanders.

Upon her return to the United States, a number of people called her a traitor because of these acts, but she was never formally charged with treason by

the Justice Department. Treason is defined in Article III, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution:

"Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort."

Jane Fonda and her allies seem to have convinced the general public that, because Congress did not declare war, it was not possible for her to commit treason when she was in North Vietnam. But that is simply not correct. Case law has established the definition of "enemy":

"The subject of a foreign power in a state of open hostility with the United States is an 'enemy' within this clause defining treason."

-Stephen vs. United States, 133 F.2nd 87 (1943)



Famous 1972 photo of Jane Fonda sighting through scope of antiaircraft weapon while touring Hanoi at the invitation of Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American People. Photo: UPI

WHAT do Vietnam veterans really think, in the spring of 1983, of Jane Fonda? It would be impossible, of course, to ask that question of all 2.7 million who served there. Accordingly, I have asked it of an array of Vietnam veterans, ranging from the senior U.S. military officer in Vietnam through former POWs to junior officers and riflemen. All are now productive citizens; all have been successful according to the traditional standards on which our society is based. I realize that there may be dissenting views that would differ from those here expressed, but it is easy to see that there is a common thread of concern felt about Jane Fonda by most Vietnam veterans.

Jim Webb was a platoon commander with the Marine Corps, has since written Fields of Fire (Prentice Hall, 1978) and A Sense of Honor (Prentice Hall, 1981), and is now finishing a third book. "Jane Fonda represents the gravest abuse of freedom in a democratic system. Her actions imply that individual opposition to governmental policy might permit direct collaboration with an enemy in its efforts to kill our citizens and destroy their morale. Hers was not a case of dissent, but rather one of treason."

Don Bailey was a platoon leader with the 101st Airborne Division and is now a member of Con-Continued on page 88

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But I discarded that idea. I know those things about the men who were close to me. Others were simply acquaintances, and although I did not dislike any of them, it is impossible to maintain contact with everybody one meets in life, particularly if he is a news correspondent. Finally there were the dead. It would have been relatively easy to check out the circumstances under which they perished: those that I knew for certain had been killed, those that I suspected had been and those that I heard of from mutual acquaintances.

I opted not to do this, for my memories of those soldiers are of vital men: officers, sergeants and enlisted men with individual skin and hair colors and accents peculiar to their geographic regions. And that is the way I would prefer readers think of them, rather than as silent, slowly eroding testaments to a war which they fought heroically but futilely, simply because those who sent them there were not as courageous as they. — Bob Poos

UNTIL the fall of 1965, the fighting of U.S. troops in Vietnam had been characterized mostly by hit-andrun counterinsurgency operations against Viet Cong irregulars, but during the week before Thanksgiving, amid the scrub brush and stunted trees of the Ia Drang Valley in the western sector of Pleiku Province along the Cambodian border, the war changed dramatically. That week, for the first time, regular North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regiments, controlled by a division-sized headquarters, engaged in a conventional slugging match with U.S. forces.

Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, chief of staff, North Vietnamese Army and author of the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu, and Gen. Chu Huy Man, commander of the Western Highlands Field Front (a division-sized unit), conceived a bold plan for operations in the central highlands. The North Vietnamese plan called for an offensive against the western plateau encompassing Kontum, Pleiku, Binh Dinh and Phu Bon Provinces. It specified the destruction of Special Forces camps at Plei Me, Dak Sut and Duc Co, annihilation of the Le Thanh Dist. headquarters and seizure of the city of Pleiku.

Assault forces would include the 32nd, 33rd and 66th North Vietnamese Army Regiments, veterans of Dien Bien Phu. This plan was part of the grand strategy for Hanoi's heralded *Dong Xuan* (winter-spring) campaign. Its primary aim was to conquer and secure the central highlands in order to sever the South and, hopefully, trigger a countrywide collapse of resistance. It was a valid plan with a good probability of success. (Indeed, that is almost precisely what would take place a decade later to win the war for Hanoi.) Giap and Man's optimism was justified.

By midsummer, Gen. William Westmoreland, commander of American Forces in South Vietnam, had good intelligence that Giap's offensive would begin in October 1965. Westmoreland felt that if, indeed, the North Vietnamese did commit to a conventional operation in the central highlands, he would soon have at his disposal a unique unit that would be the right instrument to deal the North Vietnamese a crushing defeat. That outfit was the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).



Brevet Maj. Gen. George Armstrong Custer as he appeared in 1865, at the end of his meteoric rise from second lieutenant to major general in 2½ years of Civil War. Later, as lieutenant colonel, he would lead the 7th Cavalry Regiment to its destruction at Little Big Horn. But 90 years later, when 7th Cav set forth into Ia Drang Valley, it turned the tables on a new enemy. Photo: Library of Congress



7th Cavalry unit flag, allegedly picked up by burial detail from field of battle at Little Big Horn. Photo: National Park Service

The much-publicized 1st Air Cavalry Division (Airmobile) traveled on wings and rotors rather than legs and wheels. It had 428 helicopters — five times as many as a normal infantry division. It was an infantry/artillery/cavalry organization which went to war on the wind. All hinged on the helicopter: firepower, maneuver, command and control, reconnaissance and logistics. Mountains and jungles were not obstacles to the 1st Cavalry Division; it could turn any battlefield into a three-dimensional nightmare for the enemy.

The division was commanded by Maj. Gen. Harry W.O. Kinnard, a WWII paratrooper who, as chief of staff of the famed 101st Airborne Division, had helped plan the defense of Bastogne in December 1944. A tough, barrel-chested Texan, Kinnard was one of the principal architects of the airmobile concept and had commanded this finely honed division for almost three years while it underwent experimental tests as the 11th Air Assault Division (Experimental) at Ft. Benning, Ga.

When the 1st Cavalry finally arrived in Vietnam in September 1965, it went directly to a base which its advance party had hacked out of the jungle at An Khe, midway between Pleiku and Qui Nhon astride strategic Highway 19. There, it was close enough to be supplied by sea (from Qui Nhon) and distant enough to strike out at the enemy anywhere in the central highlands.

Within days of its arrival, Gen. Kinnard started the division probing for the enemy in company strength.

Both the American and North Vietnamese commands recognized that mobility would be the key to any confrontation in the highlands: American technological mobility versus North Vietnamese foot mobility. The NVA commanders watched with great interest as the base at An Khe filled up with men, artillery and helicopters. However, in the end they determined that the 1st Cavalry Division was too far away to play a decisive role in the upcoming battle. They decided to stick with their original plan - a serious error, since they thereby gave the Americans the gift of surprise, a rare commodity in any battle and one of which the 1st Cavalry would take full advantage.

The curtain-raiser for what would officially become known as the Pleiku Campaign was to occur at the Special Forces border camp at Plei Me, some 25 miles southwest of Pleiku. While the 33rd NVA Regiment laid siege to the camp, the 32nd would set an ambush for the expected relief force from Pleiku.

During the late afternoon of 19 October, NVA gunners started to pound Plei Me. Although well dug in, the defenders' casualties began to mount. Gen. Vinh Loc, a member of the Vietnamese royal family and II Corps commander in Pleiku, immediately readied a relief column to aid the beleaguered camp, but as the hours passed and the NVA, whose strength was overwhelming, did not try to crush the tiny garrison, he became suspicious. Loc decided to delay sending the relief force. The fact was, he believed, he could not both defend Pleiku and relieve Plei Me. So he waited.

The NVA continued to pour fire into the camp, patiently waiting for the South Vietnamese relief force. Four days passed. Finally, Gen. Loc coordinated with the senior American officer in the area, Lt. Gen. Stanley ("Swede") Larson, who immediately airlifted a battalion of the 1st Cavalry to cover Pleiku while Vinh Loc went to the rescue of the camp at Plei Me.

On 23 October, a strong South Vietnamese relief column, spearheaded by armor, raced toward Plei Me. As expected, it was hit hard by the 32nd NVA Regiment. In the ensuing fierce engagement, the South Vietnam Army (ARVN) troops stoutly beat off the communists and inflicted heavy losses on them. Badly hurt, the 32nd broke contact and slipped away during the night, possibly toward Cambodia. The ARVN force, also badly shaken, did not have the will to pursue.

Larson took the initiative and ordered the 1st Brigade of the 1st Cavalry, under the command of Col. Elvy B. Roberts, a 1943 graduate of West Point, to search for the fleeing NVA. Early the next morning, helicopters placed several batteries of artillery in position to support the relief column. The following day, ARVN armor broke the week-long siege of Plei Me.

By 26 October, with their opening move checked, Front headquarters and the two NVA regiments sought to slip away westward. Gen. Westmoreland smelled a kill and quickly launched a series of spoiling attacks to throw the enemy off balance, Westmoreland's decision would pit Americans against North Vietnamese for the first time in open combat on a more or less equal basis. As the NVA division and the 1st Cavalry squared off against one another, U.S. staff officers in Saigon, aware of the high stakes and the even odds, could only hold their breath.

Gen. Westmoreland issued the order: "Find and destroy the North Vietnamese forces." Gen. Kinnard described it as a mission of "unlimited offense." His tactical area of operations (TAOR) covered more than 900 square miles of jungle-shrouded mountains, a chunk of real estate approximately the size of Rhode Island. This rugged country had long been the enemy preserve. Kinnard directed his 1st Brigade to start beating the bush for the elusive foe.

After four days of searching, elements of Lt. Col. John B. Stockton's 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, made contact with the NVA along the Tae River near an enemy hospital. After a brisk fire fight they drove the enemy back into the jungle. A prize from that encounter was a map found on a dead NVA officer, showing unit locations and routes designated for use by both enemy regiments. Based on this intelligence coup, Kinnard redirected his search pattern to intercept the retreating foe.

On 9 November, the 1st Brigade was relieved by the 3rd — the Gary Owen Brigade. Its name was a matter of pride to 3rd Brigade troopers. Originally a



Gaelic song sung by the Irish Lancers, "Gary Owen" was adopted by the 7th Cavalry Regiment of Lt. Col. George A. Custer when he took command after the Civil War. A mark of 7th Cavalry esprit, the name and new words to the song came to Vietnam with the Brigade. The 3rd's forces consisted of the 1st and 2nd Bns., 7th Cavalry, joined for this operation by the 2nd Bn., 5th Cavalry.

Concerned that the North Vietnamese might get away entirely, Kinnard directed Col. Thomas W. Brown, the 3rd Brigade commander, to employ his units south and southeast of Plei Me. Brown, a tall, lean officer, well-schooled in airmobile techniques and experienced in infantry tactics, began on 10 November to press the search vigorously with squad and platoon saturation patrolling.

For three days, it proved fruitless for the air-cavalrymen. Kinnard ordered Brown to search westward toward the Cambodian border. Brown focused his attention on the densely wooded area south of the Ia Drang River at the base of the Chu Pong Massif, a rugged mountain range straddling the South Vietnamese-Cambodian border.

On 10 November, the NVA also set a new strategy into motion. Gen. Man, undismayed by heavy losses thus far at Plei Me, decided to try again. The attack was set for 16 November. The staging area his headquarters selected in preparation for the new attack included the same terrain Col. Brown had chosen to search.

The 33rd NVA Regiment, originally a 2,200-man fighting force, had lost 890 killed, 100 missing and 500 wounded during the Plei Me debacle. The regiment was now reorganizing in the valley between the Ia Drang River and Hill 542, the most prominent peak of the Chu Pong in this area. Thirteen kilometers



Members of crack "Blue Platoon" (Aero Rifle Platoon) provided recon for 1st of the 9th Cav. PFC Gary Davis secures rear with M60 MG while Sp/4 Kent Zerr checks out bunker with .45 at the ready. "Blues" would be quickly inserted to check spottings by aerial observers and assess damage inflicted by helicopter gun ships, B-52 strikes and pursue enemy elements. Bravo troop scouts made first contact with NVA troops in October 1965 to kick off Pleiku campaign. Photo: U.S. Army

westward on the northern bank of the Ia Drang was the 32nd NVA Regiment, still a formidable fighting force despite its recent battle losses

The newly arrived 66th NVA Regiment would lead the second attack. By 11 November, its three battalions were in place along both banks of the Ia Drang, a few kilometers west of the 33rd. Although Gen. Man intended to reinforce the three regiments with a bat-

talion each of 120mm mortars and 14.5mm twin-barrel antiaircraft guns, both units were still on the trail in Cambodia, en route to the staging area.

However, once Col. Brown shifted the 3rd Brigade's search westward toward the Chu Pong, Gen. Man's plan for Plei Me was no longer viable. But the new situation opened up the tantalizing possibility of trapping and destroying one of the American battalions. Man cloistered his troops in the crevices of the Chu Pong, waiting to spring his trap.

On 13 November, Col. Brown ordered Lt. Col. Harold G. (Hal) Moore, Jr., the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry commander, to execute an airmobile assault into the Ia Drang Valley north of the Chu Pong peak early the next morning and to conduct search-and-destroy operations through 15 November.

Often called flamboyant by other officers, Hal Moore was in fact a very con-

trolled man, capable of fierce concentration one minute and extroverted affability the next. As a result, he was impatient with the shortcomings of others. Born in Bardstown, Ky., on 13 February 1922, the son of an insurance salesman, he went to work at 17 for Sen. Happy Chandler, later the commissioner of baseball. After a year, Moore received an appointment to West Point, graduating in 1945. He served as a company commander during the Korean War, 1952-53, and later with NATO forces in Norway for three years, learning Norwegian and becoming an expert in crosscountry skiing.

While preparing for his assignment in Vietnam, Lt. Col. Moore earned an MA in international affairs at George Washington University; he wrote his thesis on Laos and immersed himself in the writings of Mao Tse-Tung. After his arrival in Vietnam, the 43-year-old Moore took a copy of Bernard Fall's classic, Street Without Joy, an account of the French defeat along Highway 1, to the site of the ambush by the Viet-Minh of Groupe Mobile 100 near An Khe. He read Fall's description of the French unit's fate while sitting by the roadside, picking out terrain features as he read.

If Moore had a weakness, it was involving himself in the most minute details of his command instead of leaving them to his staff so that he could concentrate on the bigger picture. The North Vietnamese would soon begin to test the innermost resources of this officer who would become known to his men as "Yellow Hair."

In response to Col. Brown's orders, Moore returned to his command at Plei Me and ordered a reconnaissance flight over the Ia Drang to select a primary landing zone (LZ) and secondary support zones for his ready-reserve and artillery support bases. From the air, the terrain looked moderately open: tall, brown elephant grass under 100-foot trees. On the ground, however, the undulating terrain was pocked with giant eight-foot-high anthills. The jungle grew denser toward Chu Pong and a dry creek bed ran along the western edge of what would become LZ X-Ray.

When a second helicopter reported seeing communication wire in the area of X-Ray, Moore told his battalion to saddle up. The 1st Bn., 7th Cavalry, would land on X-Ray with only 68 percent of its strength, 20 officers and 411 men of an authorized 23 and 610. The 1st Bn., 7th Cav, would hit X-Ray loaded for bear. Each rifleman carried at least 300 rounds of M16 ammunition and each grenadier was ordered to bring three dozen high-explosive shells for his 40mm grenade launcher. Machine-gun crews were to transport 800 rounds of linked 7.62mm ammunition for their M60s, and every man was to have two M26 fragmentation grenades. There were to be at least two 66mm M72 light

assault weapons per squad and six smoke grenades in each platoon.

Every cavalryman was to carry one C-ration meal and two canteens of water as well as an ample supply of entrenching tools and machetes. Col. Moore also directed each rifle company to bring one 81mm mortar tube and a maximum ammunition load, and Company D to bring its three tubes.

On 14 November, at 1017 hours, after a brief delay, the 21st Artillery Battalion's 105mm howitzers at LZ Falcon began preparatory fire. Exactly 13 minutes later, with a thunderous roar, the leading elements of Company B, commanded by Capt. John D. Herren, lifted off the Plei Me airstrip in a storm of red dust. As volleys of artillery fire slammed into the objective area, the 16 Hueys four platoons of four each - filed southwestward across a bright midmorning sky at 2,000 feet.

Two kilometers out, they dropped to tree level. Meanwhile, the gunships of the 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery (Aerial Rocket), nicknamed "The Blue Max," and commanded by Lt. Col. Nelson A. Mahone, Jr., worked X-Ray over with 2.75-inch rockets for 30 seconds, expending half their loads, then circled nearby, available on call.

The 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion's escort gunships came next, immediately ahead of the lift ships, rockets and machine guns blazing. As the lead choppers braked for the assault landing, their doorgunners sprayed the tree line with machine-gun fire.

Standing at the door of the lead helicopter, Moore thought, "Everything's in sync; now if only we can make contact with the damned elusive North Vietnamese." Gen. Chu Huy Man would make sure he was not disappointed.

Moore lunged from his chopper with the lead elements of Co. B, snap-firing his M16 at likely enemy positions. The colonel quickly gathered his command around him and ordered Capt. Herren to secure the LZ. In line with previous instructions, Herren would use a new technique. Rather than attempt the usual 360-degree perimeter coverage of the entire area, he concealed most of his force in a clump of trees and tall grass near the center of the landing zone as a reaction strike force, while his 1st Plt. under 2nd Lt. Alan E. Deveny struck out in different directions, reconnoitering the terrain 50 to 100 meters from the western side of X-Ray. This sound technique allowed Capt. Herren to conserve his forces while he retained flexibility.

Col. Moore quickly set out to inspect the tiny clearing for fighting positions, glancing with distaste at the huge anthills aswarm with red ants; soldiers hated to dig foxholes near the ferocious insects. Peering into the quiet, sparse tree lines surrounding him, Moore had no inkling that he was about to trigger the biggest battle yet in the Vietnam War, but he



Maj. Gen. Harry W.O. Kinnard, CO, 1st Cavalry Division, escorts South Vietnamese Air Vice Marshal, Gen. Nguyen Cao Ky (center), and Gen. Vinh Loc, South

ARVN AMBUSH by Bob Poos

The young major clad in ironed Vietnamese Airborne camouflage pointed at a spot on a folded, acetatecovered map, indicating a U-turn in a road. "There," he said matter-offactly, "is where we're going to be ambushed."

We rode on the rear deck of an M48 tank, he seemingly without effort, I clinging to the armor with my fingernails.

The tank was part of a column of other armored vehicles that had left Pleiku City, capital of the South Vietnamese province of the same name, some time earlier, bound for a little place called Plei Me: an earthenwalled, triangular-shaped fort containing crude frame buildings, mortar pits, and a population of 12 American Special Forces officers and noncoms and perhaps 200 Montagnard mercenary soldiers.

Anyone who read, heard or watched the news at the time should remember Plei Me. It was the big story then. Under siege by a couple of regiments or so of North Vietnamese regulars - their first spectacular entry into the war - heroically holding out against desperately overwhelming odds. There was an American newsman inside, Associated Press photographer Eddie Adams, caught while paying a routine visit.

Several efforts were being mounted to relieve Plei Me. Special Forces reaction units called Mike Forces were arming and preparing themselves. Elements of the 1st Cavalry Division were gearing up, rotors already whining and blades chopchopping the air from their almost 300 helicopters. And this column of Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) rumbled and clanked its way

Vietnamese CO of II Corps (left) on tour of 1st Cavalry Division base at An Khe following successful completion of Pleiku campaign. Photo: H.W.O. Kinnard

toward Plei Me, certain of contact with its communist enemy and, hopefully, relief of the camp.

Gen. Vinh Loc, Vietnamese commander of the Second Military Corps (II Corps), had hesitated in dispatching it: partly because it represented virtually all the armor available in II Corps, partly because its armored and airborne troops composed by far the most reliable forces around, more or less his Praetorean Guard, and partly because he was inherently timid - some said cowardly.

But senior American officers prevailed upon him and now the column clattered along somewhere between the city and the camp.

Neither memory nor consultation of filing-cabinet-drawers full of old, stained, wrinkled notebooks yields the major's name. He spoke fluent English and said he was North Vietnamese, veteran (as a boy) of the Viet Minh forces which defeated the French. He was also a Catholic and youthful enthusiasm about throwing out the colonial occupiers of his country soon faded into disillusion upon witnessing Marxist excesses. So he fled south, one of the hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese who "voted with their feet" against communism and in favor of what they hoped would be something better in the partitioned South.

Neither family nor political connections guaranteed him a quick, easy commission here: He had won it through skill and expertise gained in the field. His observation as to the possible ambush site seemed thoroughly believable - too much so.

And he was right. Shortly before dark, the ambush erupted. But this column operated differently than those of the earlier French and colonial Vietnamese forces. Every weapon from 90mm tank cannons to APC .50-caliber machine guns to .45 ACPs was loaded, cocked, round in the chamber and off-safe, damn the accidental discharges.

When the ambush exploded, so did the column, ambushees stunning — for just long enough — the ambushers, and, although relatively undrilled in such a procedure, moving their armored vehicles into a circle, just like wagon trains of the old American West are supposed to have done when attacked by Indians.

Recollections of that night — darkness fell shortly after the attack — are unclear, mostly ear-shattering explosions from large-bore weapons and pounding of heavy and medium machine guns from both sides, vivid flashes briefly illuminating the scene. Soldiers riding on or in the vehicles, taking cover behind and around them.

Soon after daylight, the firing dwindled as the North Vietnamese skillfuly began slipping away, rear elements remaining behind long enough to ensure a successful disengagement, one of the most difficult maneuvers in warfare.

Most troops in the column found to their surprise that they were alive and unhurt. Casualties as measured in those days were termed light to moderate.

The young major, looking calm and relatively fresh and clean, moved about among his men.

Analysts later concluded that this was almost a classic stalemate: The column did not reach Plei Me and relieve it on schedule, but neither was it wiped out nor terribly mangled as the North Vietnamese planned. Some American officers who despised the French and had not much more regard for the ARVN allies, said it had to be the first time in history a Viet Minh or Viet Cong ambush did not prove totally successful — they ascribed this to American influence.

And the column had succeeded both in remaining intact and in keeping the North Vietnamese occupied, unable to hit, win and dash off immediately to rejoin their colleagues in the Plei Me attack.

Plei Me did get relief — with a vengeance — from the 1st Cavalry Division. Through a strange coincidence, the camp commander, Capt. Harold Moore, learned later that much of the relief force was commanded by a namesake, Lt. Col. Hal Moore, CO of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, a key maneuver element in the Ia Drang/Chu Pong fighting.

When Hal Moore and the 7th and the 5th Cavalry had done with Chu Pong/Ia Drang, any doubts as to the efficacy of airmobility or the Cavalry Division's skill and courage became forever resolved.

had a clear and eerie sensation that a real fight was in the making.

By midday, most of the battalion had arrived. By then, also, the North Vietnamese had worked their way forward into assaulting positions.

While checking the LZ, one squad flushed out an NVA prisoner. He was immediately taken to Col. Moore's intelligence officer, Capt. Thomas Metsker, and Mr. Nik, a civilian interpreter, for questioning. The North Vietnamese was unarmed when found and dressed in dirty khaki trousers and shirt with a serial number on one of its epaulets; he carried an empty canteen. He declared he was a lieutenant in the North Vietnamese Army and that there were three NVA battalions on the mountain above the landing zone which wanted very much to kill Americans but had been unable to make contact with them. This suited the feisty Moore just fine.

Based on information received from the prisoner, Moore told Capt. Herren to intensify his search and prepare to assume Co. C's mission of exploring the ground at the foot of Chu Pong, giving special attention to the finger and a draw to the northwest. For the move northwest, Capt. Herren directed Lt. Deveny's 1st Plt. to move toward the finger and 2nd Lt. Henry T. Herrick's 2nd Plt. to the right. He told both officers to advance abreast. Positioning 2nd Lt. Dennis J. Deal's 3rd Plt. behind the first as a reserve, Capt. Herren and his company moved out.

Deveny drew ahead of Herrick's platoon after crossing the dry creek bed and at 1245 hours, his platoon encountered an NVA force of about platoon size. The inexperienced Deveny was quickly flanked, taking heavy small-arms fire.

First Air Cav 81mm mortar crew in action in Plei Me campaign, fall 1965. Photo: Harry W.O. Kinnard

His platoon was pinned down and taking casualties. Herren, in an attempt to relieve the pressure, radioed Lt. Herrick to establish contact with the 1st Plt.'s right flank.

A few minutes after Herren's order, the pointman of Herrick's 2nd Plt. bumped into a squad of NVA soldiers moving toward X-Ray. The startled enemy turned and scurried back along the trail. Firing, the 2nd Plt. followed in hot pursuit. They soon began to receive sporadic, ineffective enfilade fire. The lead squads were now at the crest of the finger, about 100 meters from the dry creek bed.

Lt. Herrick was determined to continue the sweep with all three squads on line and machine guns on the flanks. As he was about to move forward, his men spotted about 20 NVA soldiers scrambling toward two large anthills. Third Squad opened fire. A grenadier found the range, and in less than a minute was pumping round after round into the NVA ranks. Screams mingled with the sound of explosions.

Suddenly, without warning, a blistering volley of enemy fire erupted from the right flank. The opening fusillade killed the grenadier and pinned down the rest of the squad. Herrick quickly deployed his two M60 machine guns against the attacking force and yelled to 3rd Squad leader, S.Sgt. Clyde E. Savage, to pull back under covering fire of the machine guns.

Within minutes, fire lashed the 3rd Platoon from all sides. Covered by the blazing M60s, Sgt. Savage managed to withdraw his squad toward the platoon, carrying the M79 of the dead grenadier, who lay sprawled where he had fallen, .45 pistol clutched in his right hand.

The tempo of enemy fire picked up; mortars and B-40 rockets rained down on the cavalrymen. The squad reached the main body of the platoon and joined



the others in a hastily formed 25-meter defensive perimeter.

The machine-gunners were still struggling toward the perimeter. One team managed to crawl into the small circle of prone cavalrymen, but enemy fire cut down all four in the other team. Seizing the M60 of the fallen team, the North Vietnamese turned it against the American positions.

Capt. Herren radioed Col. Moore, reporting he was under attack by at least two enemy companies, had a squad and a platoon in deep trouble and had expended his 40 rounds of 81mm high-explosive ammo. Moore now realized that his battalion's baptism of fire would be "a fight to the finish."

On hearing the exchange of infantry fire, NVA gunners, with their usual accuracy, brought a barrage of rocket and mortar fire crashing down on X-Ray. Startled cavalrymen hit the ground. The scattered anthills, which absorbed some of the whistling shrapnel, suddenly looked more friendly.

Col. Moore immediately turned to the commander of Co. A, Capt. Ramon A. (Tony) Nadal II, a former Special Forces

officer on a second Vietnam tour, and ordered him to rush a platoon to Herren to be used to get through to Herrick. Nadal was to follow with his remaining two platoons and link up with Co. B's left flank. Moore then turned to Capt. Robert H. Edwards, who had just landed with some of his troops, and directed him to set up a blocking position southwest of X-Ray, just inside the tree line, where he could cover Co. A's exposed left flank. Moore knew this was a gamble, since he had only Co. D left as a reaction force, and he still had to defend an entire landing zone in all directions. By thus positioning Edwards' company, Moore was exposing his rear, but in light of the rapidly developing situation, which bore out what the prisoner had told him, it seemed his only alternative.

The battalion operations officer, S-3 Capt. Gregory P. (Matt) Dillon, was hovering above X-Ray, trying to relay the course of the battle to Col. Brown at Brigade headquarters. Col. Moore had established his command post (CP) near a large anthill in the center of X-Ray. He radioed Dillon to request air strikes, artillery and aerial rocket fire, starting on

the lower fringes of Chu Pong's slopes, then working first over the western, and next the southern enemy approaches to X-Ray. Secondary targets would be the draws leading down from the mountain and any suspected or sighted enemy mortar positions. Priority was to be given to requests for fire support from the embattled companies.

Within minutes after Dillon relayed the request, Pleiku-based Air Force F-100s and Huey aerial rocket ships began blasting the target areas.

Although the 21st Artillery batteries at LZ Falcon responded quickly, their fire was ineffective. Dust and smoke made it difficult for artillery spotters to pinpoint locations for close-in support. Col. Moore radioed the spotter to "walk" the fire down the mountain toward the landing zone from the south and the west; soon they were close enough to take their toll of the NVA infantry battling the Americans.

Anxious to assist Co. B, Capt. Nadal radioed his 2nd Plt. leader, 2nd Lt. Walter J. Marm, forward. Marm immediately formed a skirmish line and moved from the landing zone toward the



sound of the guns. He planned to join Co. B's left flank and push through to Lt. Herrick's perimeter. A few moments later, just as he reached 2nd Lt. Deal's 3rd Plt., he spotted a force of khaki-clad enemy soldiers crossing their front.

Both Deal and Marm had apparently met the left enveloping pincer which had initially flanked Herrick and was now attempting to surround Co. B. A fierce fire fight ensued, both sides taking casualties. The enemy suddenly broke contact and tried to maneuver behind Marm through the creek bed, although Marm was unaware of this.

When the North Vietnamese of the flanking force, estimated at company size, entered the dry creek bed, they ran headlong into the rest of Co. A. Tony Nadal, eager to join the fight, had moved his remaining two platoons forward. The 3rd Plt. met the enemy first in the creek bed. Firing was so close that it was almost impossible for each side to miss its targets.

In the savage fighting that followed, Plt. leader 2nd Lt. Robert E. Taft was hit in the throat and died instantly. He was moving to help a downed squad leader and never learned that the trooper was already dead. Recoiling from the first shock, the men of the left half of 3rd Plt. climbed onto the creek bank where, with men of the 1st Plt., they poured murderous fire into the enemy.

As the fire fight erupted in the dry creek bed, more elements of Co. C and the lead troopers of Co. D landed at X-Ray in the first eight Hueys of the fifth airlift. They touched down in a hail of automatic-weapon and B40 rocket fire.

All hell seemed concentrated on the LZ as NVA gunners tried desperately to destroy the choppers, which took numerous hits. None were shot down, but two were disabled on the ground.

Capt. Louis R. LeFebvre, the Co. D commander, in the lead helicopter, could see the air strikes and artillery fire slamming into the ground around X-Ray. Leaning forward to unhook his seat belt as the aircraft touched down, he felt a bullet crease his neck. Instinctively, he turned to his right — and saw his radio operator slump forward, still buckled in, blood oozing from a bullet hole in the left side of his head. Grab-

bing the dead man's radio, LeFebvre jumped from the helicopter and rushed with four other men toward the relative safety of the dry creek bed, some 35 meters short of the tree line.

Fire was so heavy that Col. Moore radioed the remaining eight choppers off. Rocket and mortar fire, the crash of artillery volleys and the thunderclap of air strikes ringing the small clearing blended into a continuous roar.

Meanwhile, Capt. LeFebvre and his small group hooked up with Co. A's two platoons and quickly joined the firing from their position in the creek bed. The captain recognized the need for more firepower. He called for his antitank platoon, which had come in with him on the last flight and was waiting on the LZ for instructions. Acting platoon leader S.Sgt. George Gonzales replied, "On the way." LeFebvre then yelled to his mortar-platoon leader, 1st Lt. Raul E. Requera-Taboada, to send his radio-telephone operator (RTO) forward as a replacement for the dead man.

Just as the radio operator joined him,



Capt. LeFebvre looked up and saw Capt. Herren, who told him there were enemy soldiers south in the direction from which he had come. The three men took positions beside one another and joined the line of fire. In rapid succession, the RTO was killed and LeFebvre's right arm shattered by a fusillade of enemy small-arms fire; Taboada received a severe leg wound. Herren quickly applied a tourniquet to LeFebvre's arm, before grabbing his M16 and resuming fire.

With half the fifth lift landed, Co. C had all but three Huey loads. While the Co. A fight raged, Capt. Edwards, following Col. Moore's instructions, quickly moved his platoons into a blocking position adjacent to Nadal's right flank. His move came none too soon. Scant minutes later, a strong enemy force hit Co. C from the southwest and west.

Lying prone, the Americans put out a withering volley of M16 fire. The NVA troops, an estimated reinforced company, wore helmets and web equipment and, like those who had hit Cos. A and B, were well-camouflaged. With the help of well-placed air strikes and artillery fire, however, Co. C beat them off, inflicting heavy casualties. The cavalrymen's fire support was becoming the primary difference between the North Vietnamese and the Americans.

Col. Moore's gamble in positioning Edwards' force south rather than north of Nadal's paid dividends; by the timely commitment of Cos. A and C, he had so far frustrated enemy attempts to overrun the LZ. But his rear was still exposed. He directed Edwards to tie in and coordinate with Co. D to his left, extending the perimeter south and southeast into the brush.

The fighting intensified and the noise, smoke and confusion that reign on every battlefield increased. Hit by heavy enemy ground fire while making a low-level firing pass over X-Ray, an A-1E Skyraider, trailing smoke and flames, crashed two kilometers from the LZ, killing the pilot. When enemy soldiers tried to reach the wreckage, helicopter gunships destroyed it with rocket fire.

At Brigade headquarters, Col. Brown anxiously monitored the battle by radio. After the report of Co. B's contact and its aftermath, he decided to check out the situation by helicopter. As the battle raged below him, he realized that the NVA were hell-bent on annihilating Moore's command and that he would soon need help. As soon as he returned to Plei Me, he started to make contingency plans. Then Moore called, asking for another rifle company. The only one available at Brigade headquarters was Co. B, 2nd Bn., 7th Cavalry, which Brown immediately attached to the 1st Bn., 7th Cavalry. He then notified the hard-working 229th Assault Helicopter Bn. (Winged Assault), commanded by Lt. Col. Robert S. Keller, to prepare the



Keeping an eye on the division, Maj. Gen. Harry W.O. Kinnard, commander of experimental 11th Air Assault Division and first commander of the 1st Air Cavalry, infused division with his own style and elan. After slight eye injury, Kinnard added division insignia to his eye patch. Photo: Harry W.O. Kinnard

THE FIRST, TEAM PATCH by Robert T. Oles

The 1st Cavalry Division patch is officially the largest in the U.S. Army. Its size and design come from the history and tradition of the Division and the United States Cavalry.

In 1921, when the 1st Cavalry Division was formed at Camp Bliss, Texas, Col. Ben H. Dorcy, commanding officer of the 7th Cavalry Regiment, and his wife, Gladys, affectionately known to Division troopers and officers as "Mother Dorcy," designed the unit's shoulder sleeve insignia.

The patch was designed to meet the War Department's three main requirements for official approval of a division insignia in 1921: 1) It must bind men together in a common devotion; 2) it must be an easily recognizable sign by which men could reassemble after battle; 3) it must be a word picture that would inspire men of the division.

"The patch is big, worn by big men who go places and do things," said Mother Dorcy prior to her death in 1974. A more pragmatic reason for its size was the War Department's requirement that it had to be large enough to be seen through the dust at Camp Bliss.

The shield shape represents the chivalry and valor of the medieval knight. The bar, always shown on a coat of arms ascending from right to left, represents a scaling ladder used to breach castle walls.

The love of the cavalryman for his mount is represented by the horse's

head, which was designed to face forward, symbolic of the charge. At the time of its design, there was no reason to know that the patch would ever be worn on the right sleeve, as is now the custom for those who have served in combat with the Division.

During the Vietnam War, special patches were manufactured in the RVN with the horse's head reversed so that when worn on the right sleeve the steed would still face forward. Although it was an unauthorized modification of an official insignia, the change was tacitly accepted.

The original colors of the patch were yellow and blue. According to Mother Dorcy, the bright yellow liner of Col. Dorcy's old dress-cape was the cloth on which the first design was drawn. She believed that a "golden sunset" on the Texas prairie was as influential as the traditional cavalry yellow. The blue was later changed to black, for "iron," emblematic of the transition from horse to tank and armor. The yellow has remained, since it is also the official color of armor.

Troopers of the First Team call their patch "the horse blanket," and many who are transferred to another division complain that no other patch can cover the shadow when the 1st Cavalry Division's is removed.

The only time its size was appropriate came when the 2d Brigade (Air Cavalry Combat Brigade) separated from the 1st Cavalry Division to become the 6th Cavalry Brigade (Air Combat). Its design for the new patch was the same shape as the First Team's because of their mutual heritage.

Brigade commander, Brig. Gen. Charles Canedy, tried to get the new 6th Cavalry patch approved in the same size as the 1st Cavalry Division's, but the Department of the Army denied the request, saying that the size of the First Team patch had become too significant historically.



In jungle devastated from three days of continuous shelling, troops of B Co., 2nd Bn., 7th Cavalry charge forward on patrol beyond perimeter of American positions in Ia Drang Valley. This unit took several wounded from sniper fire shortly after photo was taken. Photo: H.W.O. Kinnard

airlift for Co. B.

After seeing X-Ray, Col. Brown knew that Moore needed more than one rifle company to save his battalion. He called Lt. Col. Robert B. Tully, who commanded the 2nd Bn., 5th Cavalry (The

NVA prisoners - young, wounded and scared - were captured during fight for LZ X-Ray by the 1st Bn., 7th Cav. After treatment by battalion medics, prisoners were transferred to Brigade HO for interrogation that would provide valuable information to Col. Moore at X-Ray. Photo: Hal Moore

Black Knights), and ordered the quick assembly of Tully's unit at LZ Victor, three kilometers southeast. Since he did not relish the idea of sending a steady stream of helicopters into what might still be a hot LZ, Brown told Tully to move by foot to reinforce Moore's battalion at X-Ray the next morning. He then directed the remainder of the 2nd Bn., 7th Cavalry, to move to LZ Macon, a few kilometers north of X-Ray, where it would be closer to the fight and available if necessary.

Col. Moore, in trying to minimize helicopter exposure to enemy fire, personally directed the air traffic into X-Ray. Two choppers were disabled while landing. Both crews escaped injury, and were evacuated almost immediately; the choppers were secured by Co. D troopers, waiting later lift-out.

On the ground, the pile-up of wounded concerned Col. Moore, as did

the heat, dust and lack of water. The problem was alleviated somewhat by the arrival of medical supplies, four fresh aidmen and the battalion surgeon. They immediately established an emergency aid station near Moore's CP. Not wanting to expose medical evacuation helicopters to enemy fire, Moore and the helicopter-lift company commander, Maj. Crandall, arranged to have casualties evacuated to LZ Falcon on departing lift ships. Thanks to the help of a pathfinder team, which arrived at 1600 hours, this system worked well.

The helicopter pilots came into X-Ray time and again, ignoring enemy fire. Col. Moore would later say of his helicopter support, "I have the highest respect and admiration for the courage of the young UHD pilots and crews who ran a gauntlet of enemy fire to help us. They never refused to come in." The Vietnam War belonged, in great measure, to the helicopter pilot; he was young, brash, and even though casualties were high among his breed, he felt nearly indestructible. He was the hotshot P-51 fighter pilot reincarnated.

It became clearer as time passed that the 1st Bn., 7th Cavalry of the Gary Owen Brigade faced an aggressive, welltrained, expertly camouflaged, wellarmed enemy that knew how to shoot and was willing to sacrifice life. It looked as if the 1st Bn., 7th Cavalry at Ia Drang might suffer the same fate as its regimental predecessor at Little Big Horn, some 90 years earlier. 突

(To be continued.) ©1982 Robert T. Oles



THE 300-year-old Pietro Beretta Company in Brescia, Italy, was among the first to manufacture submachine guns. In 1918 Beretta modified the Vilar Perosa (first known weapon to fire pistol ammunition automatically) retarded-blowback action into a carbine-style submachine gun.

Their first in-house effort resulted in one of the finest submachine guns ever made: the Beretta Model 1938(A) designed by Tullio Marengoni. It has seen extensive use throughout the world and was highly respected by all those to whom it was issued. With the exception of the stamped-metal-barrel jacket, all its parts were fabricated by the most expensive and time-consuming machining techniques and finished to the highest commercial standards.

After the first few years of World War II, the Italians, like the other combatants, realized that they would have to adopt modern mass-production methods if their war supplies were to keep pace with demand. Marengoni redesigned and simplified the Model 1938A accordingly. The result, Beretta's Model 38/42, was significantly different from its predecessor, and was put into full-scale production by mid-1943.

The Model 38/42 retained, in shortened form, the wooden stock so typical of submachine guns of this era. Gone, however, was the elaborate full-length barrel jacket. It was replaced by a shorter barrel with cooling flutes extending its entire length. The compensator was simply two cuts on top of the barrel's muzzle end. The receiver was tubular heavy stamping. The magazine well was stamped and welded to the receiver. The bolt was simplified by use of a fixed firing pin. The unusual retracting handle was nonreciprocating and attached to a one-piece dust cover. After retracting the bolt, the cocking handle could be pushed forward, where it remained while the weapon was firing.

The fire-selector system on the Model 38/42 remained the same as the Model 38A, controlled by two separate triggers. The forward trigger will produce semiautomatic fire, while pulling the rear trigger results in the full-auto mode. I have never seen a Model 38/42 "double" on semiautomatic.

Often overlooked by auto weapons' novitiates because of the intense publicity given to its contemporaries, including the Thompson, Sten, PPSh 41 and MP 40, the Beretta Model 38/42 was one of the most outstanding submachine gun designs of the WWII period. It was used by Italian, German and Romanian units. Also highly prized by the Italian partisans, it was probably used to kill Benito Mussolini.

The Model 38/42's wooden stock, while compromising compactness, offers an excellent shooting platform and greatly enhances the weapon's accuracy

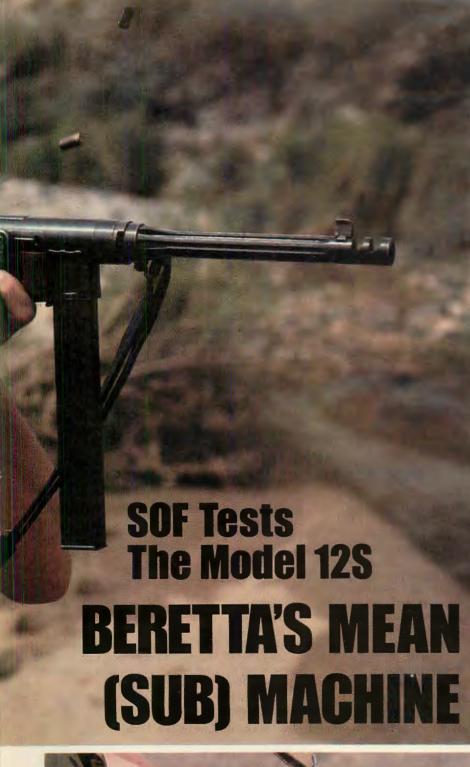


potential. Its cyclic rate of 550 rounds per minute is ideal and further contributes to its high performance level. Its well-deserved reputation for reliability is in no small way due to the superb design of the Beretta magazines. While the M3A1 "grease gun," Sten and MP 40 malfunctioned with their single-position feed magazines - ubiquitous in this time frame - Beretta was the first to employ (in 9mm Parabellum) the far-superior two-position feed magazine. The Beretta submachine-gun magazine will function in all SMGs manufactured in Italy, including the new M12 series. That's heads-up baseball.

Model 38/42 magazines were originally made in 20- and 40-round capacities.

But the 40-round magazine was prone to an unacceptable frequency of failure. As there was no time to redesign the spring, this problem was quickly solved by insertion of a 10-round horseshoe-shaped spacer inside the magazine body. During WWII the 40-round magazine blank and form dies were retained by the factory and thus all the 30-round magazines are just as long. They differ internally only by the addition of the 10-round spacer and externally by the absence of the 40th-round inspection hole. Since that time the dimensions have been altered and the 32-round magazines provided with the Model 12 series submachine guns are 11/2 inches shorter than the WWII 30/40-round magazines.

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Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

The Beretta magazine has been much copied. Two-position feed magazines are more easily loaded without a tool, require far less bolt energy to strip rounds and expedite the feeding process somewhat.

The Model 12 submachine gun was designed by Domenico Salza, Beretta's chief of research, after more than six years of development. It was first placed into production in 1959. While a modern submachine gun in every sense of the word, vestiges of the Model 38/42 remain. The Model 12's receiver is a tubular heavy stamping similar to the Model 38/42's, although of larger diameter and with more extensive debris grooves extending its length.

The Model 12's extractor and ejector are of the same form and in the same location as those of the Model 38/42. The magazine catch release is of the "flapper" type found on the Model 38/42. The distinctive receiver end cap, which contains and permits removal of the recoil spring, remains in a much altered style. The Model 12's magazine well is also a heavy sheet-metal stamping welded, by modern automated methods, to the receiver.

Firing from the open-bolt position, the Model 12 has a fixed firing pin and operates on the principle of advanced primer ignition. This simply means that the cartridge is fired while it is still moving forward into the chamber. Some of the recoil energy is thus directed to stopping the forward movement of the bolt, achieving the necessary delay in reopening the breech by yet another means. This allows use of a lighter bolt.

The position of both the retracting handle and the ejection port on the Model 12 are reversed from that of the Model 38/42. The Model 12's retracting handle, a heavy steel casting, is located on the receiver's left side near the muzzle, with the ejection port on the right.

The Model 12's extreme compactness is a consequence of its wrap-around bolt. The bolt's center of mass rides far forward of the breech and circles the barrel's axis. Of the total barrel length of 7.9 inches, 5.9 inches lie inside the bolt-block at the moment of firing. This arrangement reduces muzzle climb to an absolute minimum.

The Model 12's grip safety is deeply

ABOVE: Jim Hill fires Beretta Model 38/42, which replaced Model 1938A in WWII because of its modern massproduction methods of manufacture. Tullio redesigned Model 1938A to meet demand, resulting in full-scale production of Model 38/42 by mid-1943. Note position of 40-round magazine, and cooling flutes extending entire length of barrel. LEFT: Jim Hill fires Beretta Model 12S from hip with stock folded. Deeply grooved, wellplaced vertical pistol-grip forearm allows shooter to exert constant downward pressure.

grooved and positioned where it belongs, in front of the pistol grip and below the trigger. No need to tape this one. Its action is sure and natural.

The Model 12S is a further refinement of an already excellent submachine gun. Every reasonable criticism of the Model 12 has been corrected in the Model 12S. The separate push-button safety and fire-selector have been combined into one control, a lever conveniently located at the top of the pistol grip's left side. The folding butt plate is now selflocking in both the open and closed positions and must be manually disengaged from both postures. The exterior finish has been changed from phosphate-only to a tough, black epoxy resin over the Parkerizing. The end cap's latch has been moved to the top of the receiver where its condition is immediately visible. If the end cap is not completely tightened, the latch remains raised.

The front and rear sight ears have been beefed up, to better protect the sights. The post-type front sight is now adjustable for windage and elevation with a special tool (that was not provided). Finally, a sear block has been incorporated to supposedly eliminate the doubling so often encountered when submachine guns are set to the semiauto mode. More on that later.

At 6.6 pounds (empty) the Beretta M12S is slightly more than one pound lighter than the Uzi (7.7 pounds) and just one pound more than the H&K MP5A3 (5.6 pounds). The H&K MP5's bolt is considerably lighter than the Beretta's of the Uzi's, as it operates on a retarded blowback principle and fires from the closed-bolt position.

With its stock folded, the Model 12S measures only 16.4 inches. This is one inch shorter than the Uzi and almost four inches shorter than the H&K MP-5A3. The Model 12S comes equipped with a metal butt stock which folds laterally to the right (a wooden butt stock is also available). The Uzi's metal butt stock folds forward in a scissors-like manner, while that of the H&K MP5A3 is retractable. All three can be placed into action with about equal speed and offer similar stability.

The cyclic rates of these three submachine guns all fall within the generally accepted ideal range of 550 to 650 rpm, although they may vary with differing lots of ammunition.

The magazine well is placed in front of the trigger housing on both the Model 12S and the H&K MP5. The Uzi's magazine well is located within the grip assembly and this is conceded to be the better location, since it provides improved balance and more rapid and positive magazine changes.

The proof of a submachine gun's pudding is in the firing. And it was in this portion of our examination of the Model 12S that our most indelible impressions





ABOVE: Field-stripped Beretta Model 12S. Disassembly can be done in matter of seconds by removing barrel butt and end cap. LEFT: Beretta Model 12S with stock extended. First produced in 1959, Domenico Salza's design is compact, lightweight and accurate.

SPECIFICATIONS BERETTA MODEL 12S SUBMACHINE GUN

Caliber: Operation:

Cyclic rate of fire: Length, with metal stock folded:

Length, with metal stock extended or wooden stock:

Weight, empty without magazine:

Barrel type: Type of feed:

Front sight: Rear sight: Finish: 9mm Parabellum

Blowback, advanced primer ignition, fires from open bolt, full or semiautomatic modes 550-650 RPM

16.4 inches

26 inches

20 menes

6.6 pounds

6 lands, right-hand twist

Two-position feed, staggered box-type magazines, 20-, 30-, 32- and 40-round capacity
Post type, adjustable for windage and elevation

Two positions: 100 and 200 meters

Black epoxy resin over phosphate, semi-glossy

black plastic grips

Available to law-enforcement agencies and qualified Class 3 dealers only.

were formed.

A Beretta Model 38/42 was included in the field tests for comparison purposes and, after 40 years, is still an admirable performer. Small wonder that it was a favorite of the German Fallschirmjaeger and Waffen-SS units that fought in northern Italy. It kept pace with the Model 12S throughout the test, scoring high in hit probability and reliability. It can be faulted only with regard to its size.

The 20-, 30-, 32- and 40-round magazines were fired repeatedly through both the M38/42 and M12S with no observed failures. The Model 12S was fired standing, off-hand; in the hip-assault and kneeling positions and with the stock

folded. Using three-round bursts, on the average, no perceptible muzzle rise could be detected. Use of the grip safety is so natural that it became second nature during the firing sequence.

While the M12S delivers high-hit probability in all firing positions, it is with the stock folded that this nasty little machine comes into its own. It exhibited astounding accuracy in what should be the most unstable of all positions: at the hip, without support from the body. The deeply grooved, well-placed vertical pistol-grip forearm allows the shooter to exert a constant downward pressure that counters any tendency for the muzzle to climb during firing.

Continued on page 92



ABOVE: Telescoping bolt and barrel from Beretta Model 12S. Of total barrel length of 7.9 inches, 5.9 inches lie inside bolt-block at moment of firing, reducing muzzle climb to absolute minimum. BELOW: Trigger assembly on Beretta Model 12S shows fireselector switch for Rapid, 1 (semiauto) and Safe.





ABOVE: Model 12S barrel nut and posttype front sight from above. Note large ears protecting sight. Cast-steel retracting handle is on left of barrel. BELOW: Model 12S rear sight, end cap latch and end cap. If end cap is not completely tightened, latch remains raised.





Magazine from Model 38/42 was prone to failure, and with no time to redesign spring in WWII, problem was solved by insertion of 10-round horseshoe-shaped spacer inside magazine body.

BERETTA ARMS ITALIAN POLICE by SOF Staff

In spite of all the old Italian Army jokes, nobody is laughing at the Italian national police these days. Their largely successful war against radical Marxist urban guerrilla groups has put Italian internal security forces in a class with the Germans and the Israelis. Armi Beretta has its place in the Italian police success story, because Italy's oldest firearms maker provides most of their weapons.

There are two national police organizations in Italy, one civil and the other military: Nucleo Operativo Centrale di Sicurezza (NOCS) is the civilian national-security force, and Gruppo Intervento Speciale (GIS) the military police force.

The GIS is a military police organization, but it bears little operational relation to American military police. Better known as the Carabinieri, the GIS is more like the Mexican Federales than the Shore Patrol. In Italy, they combine the functions of FBI, BATF and National Guard.

The NOCS is a civilian police force, but from their prominently displayed rifles, SMGs and camouflage, they obviously aren't the LA-PD. NOCS is primarily responsible for internal state security.

Somewhat like SWAT teams in force, the GIS and NOCS equipment includes full-dress military armament - unlike the average patrolman in the United States.

The standard-issue pistol is still the justly famed Beretta M1951 9mm autoloader, but these are being replaced by its descendant, the 92 S. The 92 S increased the M1951's magazine capacity from eight to 15 rounds with an increase in unloaded weight of 80 grams. Rumor has it that some unusual Beretta 93R three-shot-burstcapacity machine pistols are also to be issued.

SMGs are more widely used than rifles by both organizations, but when rifles are required, they have access to the same 7.62mm NATO BM-59s, 5.56mm AR-70s and .30-cal. carbine P-30s (all made by Beretta) used by other Italian armed services. The universally employed SMG is the reliable, accurate Beretta Model 12S.

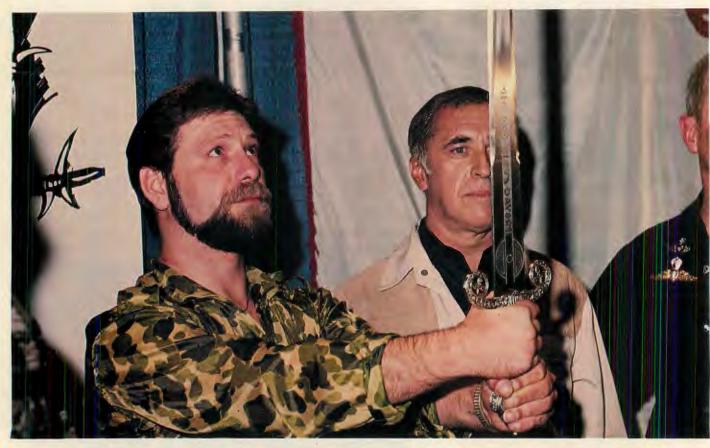


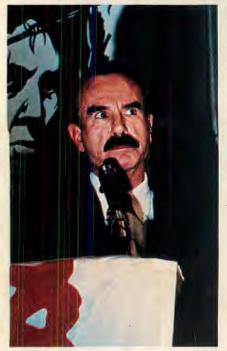


ABOVE: Police check apprehended "kidnapper" for weapons while covering him with Beretta SMGs, Alsatian K-9. Current issue for civilian national police is still M1951 pistol, identified by distinctive butt spur, and P-30 .30-cal. carbine, slung on policeman to left of "terrorist." LEFT: Helmeted and ballistic-vested member of GIS - Italian military police — on training exercise carries shoulderholstered Beretta 92S and special-issue M12S SMG with light built into forward pistol-grip. Photos: Foto Zanoni, Italy

CONVENTION'82

SOF Merry Men Meet In Magnolia Land







Gen. John Singlaub (above) and Gen. William Westmoreland (right) address 1,200 conventioneers at Saturday night's banquet. Photos: David Vine and Don Stuber

"The Vietnam War was immoral — because the U.S. didn't push to win," says G. Gordon Liddy (left) at the awards banquet. Liddy spent a day at the exhibit hall selling his book, Will, and was a guest of honor. Photo: Don Stuber



In salute to Project Freedom, the Bull Simons Memorial Award was presented to two Vietnam vet ex-POWs (left) by SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown. Photo: Tim Oest

George Brooks, father of MIA whose remains were recently returned by Vietnamese government, is active in Project Freedom and National League of Families. Photo: David Vine



by John Metzger

UR favorite people — SOF readers — showed up in force for the Third Annual SOF Convention in Charlotte, N.C., 12 through 17 October 1982. Some conventioneers met for the third time to swap old stories and new, and many came as first timers, taking part in the camaraderie and good times that have become a convention hallmark.

There was plenty to see, do and learn. The convention was longer than the past two and gave attendees more opportunities to take part in more events. The well-organized show can be attributed to Bill Brooks, convention director, and his assistant, Nadine Rick, who scheduled events as openly as possible, allowing conventioneers to take in more attractions than they had been able to previously.

Our Holiday Inn accommodations were great. Innkeepers Ken Johnson, Muriel Wallace and Bill Bowman were the perfect hosts. helping the SOF staff a great deal with the problems that arose with an ambitious undertaking like the convention. Small problems would have quickly turned to big ones without their help. Two of the hotel managers had been soldiers themselves. Johnson, former Army major and Golden Knight Parachute Team member, commanded the South Vietnamese Ranger company at Khe Sanh, and Bowman is a retired lieutenant colonel from Special Forces.

The format of events was much the same as our last two meets (Columbia, Mo., 1980 and Scottsdale, Ariz., 1981), with the Three-Gun International Combat Match held at the Charlotte Rifle and Pistol Club Range, the 1st Airborne operations at the Lancaster County Airport drop zone, the gun show at the Charlotte Civic Center, seminars and movies at the Holiday Inn-Woodlawn Headquarters Hotel, factory and automatic weapons demonstrations at the range, and beer bust and banquet at the Civic Center Saturday night to top it all off.



Vietnam artist Austin Deuel (sitting) gets handshake from 1st Airborne commander Madro Bandaries. Deuel had collection of Vietnam paintings and sculpture by various artists set up in exhibit hall for duration of convention. Photo: Bill Dempsey

The match, coordinated and designed by IPSC U.S.-Region Director Jake Jatras, proved an exciting one, with 120 top U.S. and foreign shooters vying for over \$34,000 in prize money, guns and gear. Top gun was John Shaw of Memphis, Tenn., who was overall winner, and top pistol and shotgun competitor as well.

Second overall was Bill Rogers of Jacksonville, Fla., and third went to SOF-sponsored J. Michael Plaxco of Roland, Ark. Two days of wet weather and a tough course design by Jatras challenged the best competitors but everything ran smoothly with the help of the range staff and the Charlotte Rifle and Pistol Club.

Conventioneers spent time at hotel headquarters attending seminars conducted by SOF staff and experts on various subjects, and watching classic war movies.

The lectures were well attended, the audiences well-informed and responsive. One of the most popular seminar-givers was SOF's Soldier of Luck, Larry Dring, with two: "Viet Cong Psychological Warfare Tactics" and "Man Against Tank." Dring told of some experiences in 'Nam, where he was faced with VC psywar, including how they did it, and how to deal with it. The talk was laced with humor and could be used as a primer for anyone — left, right or center — in propaganda.

"Who's hunting whom?" was the central theme of Dring's "Man Against Tank" seminar. Dring contends that one man, properly armed, and, just as important, properly motivated, trained and disciplined, will defeat a tank in a one-on-one situation. Dring's lesson, drawn from personal experience in Vietnam and afteraction reports of the Israeli Army following the 1973 Yom Kippur War, pointed out the vulnerability of armor to today's sophisticated

and lethal man-portable anti-tank missiles.

Prior to 1973, military tacticians generally agreed that the best thing to counter a tank was another tank. "That's before," as Dring put it, "the Israelis noticed the bushes moving." Every other Egyptian infantryman who crossed the Suez Canal in 1973 had an RPG strapped to his back — and the man beside him carried a SAM-7. The results proved initially devastating and the IDF had to rework its entire battlefield strategy and tactics. The bottom line was that it can be done.

Bob Brown, who had returned from a trip to Burma the month before, reported on what he saw at the general headquarters of the Karen National Liberation Army. Brown took a boat from Thailand and met Lt. Gen. Saw Bo Mva. president of the Karen National Union. The Karens started their movement in 1949, and have been fighting the Burmese totalitarian regime and Burmese communist party troops ever since. Brown observed drill and recruit training. and was able to take some pictures. During the report, slides were shown, and a discussion of the background and organization of the Karen National Liberation Army was given.

Sterling Seagrave, author of the definitive book on Soviet chemical warfare, Yellow Rain, gave a seminar with the same title, summarizing the efforts of a great many people to expose the horrible reality of the Soviet Union's use of chemical/biological weapons against the people of Afghanistan, Laos and Cambodia. He chronicled the use of CB warfare, beginning with weapons supplied by the Russians to Egypt for use in South Yemen in 1963.

Seagrave, whose father, Gordon, was the famed "Burma Surgeon," almost single-handedly sleuthed the trail which eventually culminated in the official U.S. government's (and many other countries) disclosure that the unknown agents being used were mycotoxins — including grain mold long known in the Soviet Union, and extensively studied there.

Seagrave's seminar revealed that CBW is an integral part of Soviet strategies and tactics. The United States has no deterrent and may not be able to counter a CB attack (the standard-issue U.S. Army gas mask, for instance, is not effective against known mycotoxins).

Brig. Gen. Heine Aderholt gave a seminar on Unconventional Air



Soldier of Luck Capt. Larry Dring gives his "Man Against Tank" seminar, using visual teaching aids. Dring's was one of best attended and received seminars of convention. Photo: Jim Coyne

seminar on Unconventional Air Operations. If there is anything Aderholt doesn't know about unconventional air ops, it probably isn't worth knowing. He's been involved in the business virtually from the beginning, having flown arms into Tibet in the formative days of Air America, the CIA's airline, and was part of the eventual air evacuation of Pnomh Penh in 1975. During the Vietnam War, he commanded the famous 56th Air Commando Wing, which provided direct air support for unconventional ops in Laos, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and Cambodia. He served as Air Officer for MACV-SOG under Gen. Singlaub, and was the last general officer to leave Southeast Asia (CO MAC-THAI) in 1975.

Ernie Husted, former Marine, also covered the Vietnam Experience. He presented a slide-show on the siege of Khe Sanh. Husted was there before, during and after the attack, and his slides showed its different stages, complete with maps.

Chuck Allen, Editor/Publisher of the Vietnam Veteran's Newsletter, directed Project Delta in South Vietnam from 1967 to 1968. He delivered a lecture discussing the nature of Delta — a successful unconventional warfare operation in South Vietnam (MACV-SOG was more or less the same in design but operated "across the line" in Laos, North Vietnam, etc.). It is the contention of many that if the Vietnam War had been fought along the lines of Project Delta we would all be sipping beer safely in

Saigon to this day.

Delta called for judicious use of American advisers acting alongside indigenous troops in an unconventional war. The operation was successful, but always the runt of the American military machine.

Police officers attending the convention had the opportunity to attend two seminars: one by Detroit Police Dept. Sgt. Evan Marshall and John Farnam of the Juneau County, Wisc., Sheriff's Dept., called "Police Officer Street Survival/High Risk Situations"; the other, "Weapon Retention and Disarming" by Ken Pence of the Metro Police Academy, Nashville, Tenn. Policemen got the latest rundown from Marshall, Farnam and Pence on what it takes for lawenforcement personnel to survive on violent streets, aided by live demonstrations on disarming and self-defense techniques, films and discussions on real life-or-death police situations. A responsive audience made for lively questionand-answer sessions, in which both students and teachers learned new tricks to keep them alive.

SOF Soviet Analyst David Isby presented two successive seminars on "The Soviets in Afghanistan" and "Contemporary Soviet Armor." Isby, one of the most knowledgeable people in the field, gave his audience insight into exactly what the Russians are doing in Afghanistan, a subject which is not covered by the Western press. SOF Foreign Correspondent Jim Coyne provided a visual backup to Isby's lecture with his presentation of SOF's summer foray into Afghanistan. Coyne's videotape showed SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown as the Afghans dropped mortar rounds on Russian positions.

Coyne explained that the Afghans were winning with virtually nothing in the way of heavy arms.

Coyne answered questions, and the audience was very much aware, through the magazine, of what is going on in Afghanistan. "It was a pure instance of preaching to a choir," said Coyne afterward, "but it sure felt good to know we were all singing the same song." Tape and talk were appreciated by the large crowd.

Al Santoli, author of Everything We Had, gave a lecture on "Vietnam Vets: Who Represents Whom." Santoli discussed in depth the current situation regarding various veterans groups and government programs, and how they benefit - or hinder treatment of the much-ignored and maligned Vietnam vet. Santoli's audience had been there, and related some of their own personal involvements and observations about what is really going on.

Richard Calef, of Medical **Emergency Rescue Consultants** International, an expert in worldwide rescue and training, utilized films, slides and videotapes to outline the concept of survival medicine. The presentation concluded with Col. Alex McColl (USAR) describing the mission, history and goals of SOFsponsored Parachute Medical Rescue Service (PMRS).

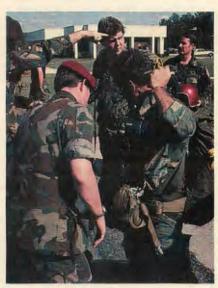
Robert Caldwell and Arthur Alta-Mirano held a seminar entitled "Central American Update." The pair, both experts on this subject, threw a scare into their audience, citing some examples of how the Marxists are knocking on our back door.

SOF's Special Correspondent Jim Morris conducted a discussion entitled "World War III Is Seven Years Old." Morris has been through quite a few wars, and he related his experiences over the last several years, covering conflicts from Central America to the Middle East.

Airborne operations, conducted by the 1st Airborne Division, were in full swing once again, and 111 students stood in the door and were told to "go!" for the first time. Twenty members of the 1st Airborne made the trip up from Louisiana to act as the training cadre, and conducted courses in Parachute Landing Falls (PLFs), jumping and malfunction procedures and airborne history at the Lancaster County Airport Drop Zone. Vernon Kisinger was chief of ground operations, and supervised his staff in training jumpers to take that first step out of the jump

plane, a C-45. The plane took off each time with eight jumpers, deploying in four-man sticks. A total of 173 operational jumps were made, including a PIAD (Parachute Inflationary Assistance Device) demonstration by inventors Chris Koenig (disabled 'Nam vet and well-known airborne officer) and Jim Caner (former Special Forces sergeant). The jump was done by Caner and his son, Jim Caner Jr., from approximately 320 feet. In less than 10 seconds, the pair hit the ground, with stand-up landings.

After the PIAD demonstration. conventioneers at the Holiday Inn took a walk outside to watch a sport-parachuting demo by John Wade, Paul Fayard and Mike Bland jumping colorful square chutes with smoke streamers attached to their legs. All made perfect landings on target to a cheering



1st Airborne Division operations were in high gear for third annual convention, with 111 jumpers going out the door for the first time. Total of 173 operational jumps were made, including some sport jumping and a PIAD demo, from C-45 jump plane. **Photos: Tim Oest**

crowd and astonished onlookers driving by.

After seminars and trips to the range, most conventioneers found time to check out the gun show. Readers who attended know what I mean when I say it was like being a kid in a candy store. Approximately 10,000 people passed through the doors of the Charlotte Civic Center to be confronted with more than 300 tables covered with everything an SOFer could want: Guns, knives, cammies, patches, T-shirts, survival food, blowguns — you name it, it was there in just about every configuration imaginable. Some of the more interesting items included a .50-caliber Browning machine gun complete with a first generation Starlight scope, a Lahti anti-tank rifle rechambered for .50 caliber (therefore falling under the same regulations as a hunting rifle), a German MG42 and an MG34 light machine gun, a PPSh submachine gun, an M60 — the list goes on and on.

Handmade knives were big sellers, and firms like Al Mar and the American Historical Foundation did brisk business. Cold Steel, Inc., had pumpkins set up at its table and passers-by got the chance to grab an "Urban Skinner" and send the unfortunate vegetables to the Great Pumpkin Beyond.

Camouflage fatigues, hats, scarves, packs, boots, socks, wallets and watchbands could be found in just about any style from Portuguese GI to Tiger Stripe.

Just about every patch and pin ever made was there and if you couldn't find your particular insignia on a patch or pin, you could probably get it on one of the thousands of T-shirts for sale.

The survivalist movement was not slighted, with several exhibitors displaying large selections of equipment, food



and literature.

A quick stroll around the exhibition hall could provide one with an autographed copy of G. Gordon Liddy's book, Will, or a T-shirt with his likeness printed on the front; information about the POW/MIA issue from the Project Freedom display; and up-to-date information from the Committee for a Free Afghanistan for those interested in the current plight of the Afghan Freedom Fighters against Soviet invaders.

"When you send a man off to war, you owe him everything he fought for."

Everything went smoothly, except for a rude group of reporters and cameramen from "Sharpshooter Productions" who tried to start fights and harass exhibitors for some reason. (Man bites dog? Reporter bites T-shirt dealer?) They were politely asked to leave and not come back, and were last seen being escorted out of the Civic Center by two obliging Charlotte policemen.

Vietnam artist Austin Deuel set up his paintings in the entrance lobby at the Civic Center. Conventioneers from last year will recall the watercolors, oil paintings and sculpture depicting the Vietnam Experience in dramatic detail. Many a Vietnam vet stopped by to look, and recall old memories from a war that seemed so long ago - brought back to life through Deuel's art. The show has been touring throughout the United States this past year, and we thank Austin for bringing his works to Charlotte, and giving our conventioneers a chance to see them again.

"Push-button warfare is a myth."

Another Vietnam artist, George Skypeck, had his painting of a reclining GI on exhibit. But this picture was special: Vietnam vets with combat experience were welcome to sign the work, and it was brought up to the hospitality suite before the banquet for the signatures of Gens. Westmoreland,

AUTO WEAPONS DEMONSTRATIONS by Peter G. Kokalis

The convention's automatic weapons demonstrations blazed off when the Reese boys from Springfield Armory set the downrange target area on fire. Firing a RAMO Corp. .50-caliber M2 HB and their own versions of the M60 GPMG, M60 Lightweight, M16s in every configuration imaginable, folding-stock BM59s and their new Garand, the Springfield Armory demo was a real crowd pleaser. Only the local fire department demurred.

Next on deck was Detonics with its new line of matte-finished stainless-steel .45 ACP auto pistols. The stainless-steel Ruger AC556K short-barreled assault rifle also was put through its paces. The weapon features a three-shot burst device; however, it malfunctions frequently. Several Ruger Mini-14 rifles equipped with the fine Aimpoint sight were also demonstrated.

Michael Iten from Heckler & Koch unveiled the new P7 A13 9mm Squeeze-cocker with a 13round magazine. All four versions of its excellent submachine-gun series were present: the MP5A2 (rigid stock), the MP5A3 (retractable stock), the suppressed MP5SD and the ultra-compact MP5K, which fired from a trickedout attache case. Firing from the closed bolt, H&K's submachine guns are significantly lighter than most competitors'. The new semi-auto PSG-1 sniper rifle, based on the G-3 action, was also on exhibit. H&K ended its demonstration with a short-barreled G-3, which figuratively blew everyone away. Muzzle blast was severe, but the weapon surprisingly accurate when fired from the hip-assault position using five-round bursts.

The American Bladesmith Society provided an interesting interlude from the blasting, showing the audience exactly what a properly sharpened knife can do.

Beretta U.S.A. Corp. brought everything back into its proper decibel perspective with its comprehensive series of military small arms: the 92SB (see "Son of a Winner," SOF, November, '82) and 92SB Compact 9mm auto pistols, the 93R machine pistol with folding stock and three-shot burst control, the PM 12S submachine gun, and the SC 70 assault rifles in 5.56mm NATO with both



SOF demo team at auto weapons finale firing battery of classic machine guns, which included .50-caliber Browning M2 HB, Browning 1919A4 .30-06, M60 GPMG, Mk. 1 Bren Gun in .303 British, and MG 34 and MG 42 in 7.92mm. Photo: Bill Dempsey



SOF contributing editor Ken Hackathorn fires Peter Kokalis's early Mk. 1 Bren Gun in .303 British, which was manufactured at the Enfield plant in 1940. Photo: Bill Dempsey



rigid and folding stocks. You will be reading exhaustive test and evaluation reports on all three in this and future issues of SOF.

Lanchester U.S.A. stepped up to the line with all three of the Sterling submachine guns it mar-





Roma L. Skinner of the Lanchester U.S.A. Corp. fires Sterling Mk. 4 SMG in 9mm Parabellum. Next to him are two other Lanchester reps firing the Sterling Mk. 5 silenced SMG in 9mm Parabellum. Photo: Bill Dempsey

Springfield Armory reps fire their M60 GPMG fitted with helicopter D-grips at pyrotechnic target. Photo: Bill Dempsey

kets in this country: the Mk.4 (L2A3) SMG, the Mk.5 (L34A1) and the new Mk.6 semi-auto version. The Mk.5, which is the suppressed version, is without doubt the quietest submachine gun in



the world. The Mk.5 design addresses not only the muzzle blast and reduction of bullet velocity to subsonic levels (to eliminate downrange "crack"), but bolt clatter as well. The crowd responded with a thunderous ovation to this show of reliability and sound suppression.

Carlos Davila from Odin International, Ltd., fired CETME's new selective-fire Model L assault rifle (5.56mm NATO) with both a fixed buttstock and the short-barreled version with a telescopic stock. The Spanish CETME SMG and the MG82 (see "Spain's SAW Entry," SOF, September, '82) were also shown.

The spectators were further entertained with an American 180 .22LR submachine gun equipped with a laser sight and a handmade scaled-down Sten Gun in .22LR.

After everyone removed his ear protectors, Jonathan Arthur Ciener fired an interesting variety of his suppressed weaponry, which included a Mk.II Sten, UZI, Ruger Mk.I pistol, Walther TPH .22LR pistol, M16, Browning .22LR Autoloading Rifle and boltaction rifle in 7.62mm NATO using full-power ammunition. Ciener's quiet guns offered a respite for what was to follow.

SOF's Military Small Arms Editor, Peter "Machine Gun" Kokalis, spoke on the history, evolution and future of the submachine gun. Kokalis's lecture was interspersed with plenty of live firing from a bevy of vintage and state-of-the-art SMGs: the Beretta MP 38/42, Model 1928 and M1A1 Thompsons, the M3 "grease gun," PPSh 41, Sten Mk.II, MP40, Reising Model 50, Danish Madsen M50, Walther MPL, UZI, S&W Md. 76 and MAC 10 (.45 ACP) fitted with a Sionics suppressor.

The demonstration reached a crescendo when an SOF demo team, led by Kokalis with gunners Ken Hackathorn, John Miller, Allen F. Nordeen, Marty Hart and Sam Allen, cut loose with a Browning Ma Deuce, Browning M1919A4, Mk.I Bren Gun, M60 GPMG, MG34 and MG42 into a pile of pyrotechnics prepared by SOF Demolitions Editor John Donovan.

The crowd dispersed, exhausted but ecstatic, after observing one of the largest assemblages of auto weaponry ever put together, anywhere.

Singlaub and Aderholt, Chuck Allen, Bob Brown, et. al.

The painting, now covered with vets' signatures, will be placed on permanent display at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

As the gun show and seminars began to wind down Saturday, conventioneers returned to their hotels to get their cammies cleaned and pressed for the evening's banquet. In the meantime, banquet speakers, guests of honor and staffers met in the Civic Center's hospitality suite for champagne.

At 1700, the spit-and-polish (and some not so spit-and-polish) conventioneers started filtering into the upper level of the Civic Center for the beer bust, where the 1,200 attendees could roam freely from strategically placed keg to keg. The cammie-clad men and women then lined up to serve themselves a feast of Southernstyle pig pickin' barbeque, hush puppies and cole slaw. As the hungry crowd started inhaling dinner, Gen. William C. Westmoreland and G. Gordon Liddy were escorted into the hall with bagpipe music provided by the 1st Airborne Division's own Louisiana Highlanders. After local Marines presented the colors, the awards ceremony got underway.

SOF staff members sold 646

raffle tickets, bringing in \$1,292 — all of which will be donated to Soldier of Fortune's Afghan Freedom Fighters Fund and the Karen Liberation Movement. Master of Ceremonies and SOF Demolitions Editor John Donovan, called out the winning numbers. Disabled Vietnam vet Mel Tatrow won the flag of the Karen Liberation Movement, which had been recently brought from Burma by Bob Brown. Other lucky ticket holders received three more gifts in



Louisiana Highlanders provide martial mood at convention with rousing bagpipe music. Photo: Don Stuber

the raffle: a Russian belt taken off a dead Soviet soldier in Afghanistan, a special SOG ring, and the "mystery" prize, which was a set of suspenders, also taken from a Russian slain in Afghanistan.

Brown then stood to introduce the staff and VIPs at the head table, and said a few words about his resentment of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. He urged all those present to write their representatives in Washington and voice their disapproval of the placement of the "Black Gash" that is supposed to honor Vietnam veterans. Brown asked all 'Nam vets to stand, and about 40 percent of the 1,200 people rose with obvious pride.

Now was the time to give credit to the shooters who distinguished themselves in the Three-Gun International Match. John Shaw was presented \$5,000 by top-prize donor Garth Choate of Choate Machine and Tool Co., along with a Choate-customized Remington 1100 shotgun, stainless-steel Ruger Mini-14 rifle, 24-inch trophy and Gold Medal.

Second place overall winner was Bill Rogers. Sponsor Heckler & Koch presented Rogers with

Cammie-clad men and women — 1,200 of them — attend Saturday night's banquet at Charlotte Civic Center, enjoying Southern-style pig pickin' barbeque. Photo: Don Stuber



\$2,000, and an H&K 91 with bipod, 19-inch trophy and Silver Medal.

SOF-sponsored J. Michael Plaxco, third overall, was presented \$1,600 cash from Beretta U.S.A. Corp., along with a Beretta 92 SB 9mm pistol, trophy and Bronze Medal.

Fourth place went to last year's Three-Gun International winner Craig Gifford, who went home with \$1,300, a Colt Mark IV Gold Cup .45 and a Silver Cup presented to him by sponsor Bianchi Gunleather.

Bianchi also sponsored fifth place, and presented winner Mark Lonsdale with \$1,100, a Gold Cup .45 and a Silver Cup.

Sixth place, sponsored by Heckler & Koch, was won by Lynn Schoening, who got \$1,000, an H&K VP70-Z 9mm pistol and a Silver Trophy.

Springfield Armory sponsored the rifle match, and presented top rifle shot Rogers with \$600, a Springfield M1A and trophy.

Overall winner Shaw also took top honors in both the pistol and shotgun matches. He was presented a Mossberg 500 shotgun and \$800 from O.F. Mossberg and Sons, Inc., sponsor of the shotgun stage. Pistol-match sponsor, Rogers' Holster Co., sent Shaw home with \$600 and a Colt Mark IV Gold Cup.

The Bull Simons Memorial Award, an SOF convention tradition for three years now, was represented by an engraved broadsword. Since the convention theme was a salute to Project Freedom, two Vietnam vet ex-POWs received the award, on behalf of all POWs.

With the conclusion of the awards ceremony, the first quest speaker, George Brooks, took the stage. Brooks' son was MIA in Vietnam. Although his body was returned last year by the Vietnamese government, Brooks and his wife are still active in lobbying for more government attention to MIAs still believed to be in Southeast Asia. Active in Project Freedom and the National League of Families, George Brooks spoke eloquently on the goals and advances made by Project Freedom, and criticized the U.S. government for not doing enough to help bring back remains of those who fought in Vietnam.

Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub (USAret.) spoke next of the need for the development of a national military strategy to include the entire spectrum of conflict from nuclear and conventional to the unconventional. Singlaub contended that we have been



Color guard, courtesy of Charlotte Marine Corps Reserve unit, officially starts awards banquet. Photo: Don Stuber

120 top shooters competed in Three-Gun International Match. For full report, see next issue of SOF. Photo: Bill Dempsey



overlooking our unconventional warfare capabilities - the war which we are fighting right now. There are 250,000 Soviet troops who are dedicated to this type of warfare — a low-intensity conflict involving nations such as Angola and Nicaragua. We have not committed our resources, and the last administration cut back on special-operations forces so drastically that they were almost eliminated. Singlaub has been lobbying for the promotion of a consolidated, expanded version of an unconventional operations force, to include all branches of the services under one command. His rousing speech was enthusiatically received by the agreeing audience.

G. Gordon Liddy, the only man in the Watergate debacle who didn't talk, gave a short speech on the development of a national conservative conscience, and an active national conservative constituency in the post-Vietnam years. He also related his recent pleasant experiences on college campuses, noting that today's students are more patriotic than the protesters of the '60s. "You can

be proud of them," he said. "They have learned." The audience heartily agreed with Liddy's statement: "When you send a man off to war, you owe him everything he fought for." They cheered when Liddy called the Vietnam War immoral — because the United States didn't push to win. "There's no such thing as a limited war," Liddy said.

Gen. William C. Westmoreland delivered the keynote address. Now retired, Westmoreland was U.S. Army Chief of Staff from 1968 to 1972. He said it would be foolhardy for the United States to cut back its nuclear capabilities now, but added, "Push-button warfare is a myth. The next war will be conventional, not nuclear. Wars will be decided by armed men on the ground. Such has been the case in the past, and so it will be in the future." Westmoreland evaluated the NATO/Warsaw Pact strategic situation in Europe, and concluded with a synopsis of the Falkland Islands conflict, and lessons learned from new tactics and weapons put to practical use in the field.

As our guests of honor concluded their well-received speeches, Peter Kokalis and Jim Coyne showed a videotape of their recent trip to Afghanistan during which they test-fired the Russian AGS-17 (see "Raiders of the Lost Grenade Launcher," SOF, February '82).

On that note, convention 1982 ended. The SOF staff thanks all those who attended, and we hope to see you all again next year. After all, where else in the world can a group of likeminded SOFers get together to share ideas, information and good times?

PERU

Helmeted, camouflaged riot police interrogate suspect at gunpoint. Star SMG and FN assault rifle ensure security while recorder collects suspect's answers.





SHINING PATH GUERRILLAS

Exclusive: Weird Warriors of Incaland

by Jay Mallin

Photos Courtesy of Gustavo Gorriti, Caritas Magazine, Peru

THEY issue no manifestoes. They make no statements. They offer no claims regarding actions committed, nor do they spell out what they are fighting for. Dynamite is their favorite weapon—and they use Inca llama-hair slings to fling it. Whereas other guerrilla groups call themselves "peoples' armies" and "popular liberation fronts," these guerrillas prefer to be known as the "Shining

doesn't seem to know quite what to do about the situation. Fearful of a coupprone army, the country's civilian rulers use police to fight the guerrillas, and the Lima riot police force is probably the first such urban police unit to find itself scrambling over high mountains in search of tough, wily and determined rural combatants.

Soon after the sun rises in Ayacucho,

The Shining Path guerrillas of Peru are fanatical, ruthless,

dangerous — and growing in numbers and strength.

Path." They believe that the ideology of Mao Tse Tung is the true road — the "shining path" — to communism.

But they view Peking, Moscow,

But they view Peking, Moscow, Havana and Washington equally as their enemies, and the embassies at which they have repeatedly thrown dynamite are those of the United States and the People's Republic of China. They may well be the last Maoists on earth still under arms and fighting.

They combine their Maoism with Andean mysticism and they follow a leader they believe is the reincarnation of an Incan chief. No outsider has seen the leader in several years; he may be dead and secretly buried.

The Shining Path guerrillas of Peru are fanatical, ruthless, dangerous — and growing in numbers and strength. The nation's interior minister says, "We are almost in a war," but the government



Striking into capital, this dead dog hung on lamp post was first action by Sendero Luminoso guerrillas in Lima. Bombs followed soon after.

PERU

Peru, Indian women, wearing felt hats and bright clothing, appear on the streets. Children in school uniforms head for classrooms. Men in trucks go to work. Newsboys stack newspapers and street vendors on the Plaza de Armas lay out books and other publications. Indian men lug big bundles, some heading for the *mercado* (marketplace). Some of the Indian women spin thread as they amble along, often carrying babies on their backs. Other women tend *carretillas* (carts) filled with candies.

The shops open. The *mercado* opens. Professional men begin their work. Ayacucho bustles throughout the day. It looks like any other city in the long range of the Andes Mountains. It is a religious city with 33 churches; it is an historic city, founded in 1545; it is the site of the battle that won independence for South America. Its ancient buildings are a heritage from another age. Its dry, dusty, sandy, treeless streets are a symbol of its economic abandonment in modern times.

Ayacucho, a city of about 80,000 people, is, despite surface appearances, unlike any other mountain city. It is the home, the intellectual wellspring and the support of the most bizarre guerrilla movement Latin America has seen in recent years: the Sendero Luminoso, or Shining Path.

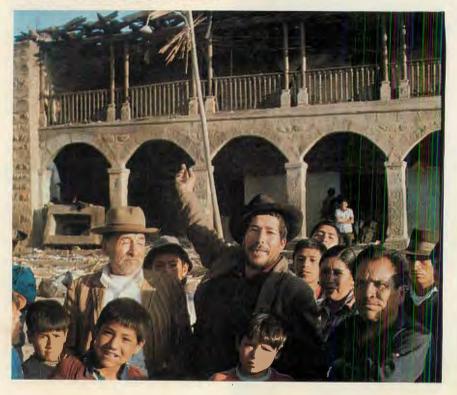
Today there are some 1,000 policemen in Ayacucho. They are members of Peru's three police forces: the Guardia Civil (basically, street police), the Guardia Republicana (which guards the borders, prisons and official buildings) and the Policia Investigadora Peruana (the PIP, the detective or investigative service). The streets of Ayacucho are patroled by white police cars and foot patrols of khaki- and green-uniformed Guardias Civiles and blue-bereted, camouflage-suited Guardias Republicanas. In front of the Commandancia of the Guardia Civil — now the headquarters for all police in the city — stand tanquetas, armored vehicles, and a bus protected by wire mesh.

Near midnight on 3 March 1982. heavy gunfire erupted in Ayacucho. A force of 50 to 60 guerrillas attacked the CRAS (Centro de Rehabilitacion y Asistencia Social). The CRAS is a prison at the northern end of the city, a brownstone, almost windowless structure, about a block long with but one entrance. Firing weapons and hurling sticks of dynamite, the guerrillas blasted their way inside. The firing lasted about an hour. When it was over, some 257 prisoners, including 10 women, had been freed, among them a number of suspected guerrillas. Ten men were killed, including two policemen. The





ABOVE: Toll is heavy for Guardia Civil. Wife of policeman grieves over wounded husband. LEFT: Power lines are essential to development of rural Peru and mining industry, but cannot be guarded constantly. Children play on blasted wreckage of pylon. BELOW: Agitated residents tell reporter of raid on Ayacucho jail, behind them.





"The assault was carried out by well-prepared

people and was similar to a military commando attack."



Guardia Civil's only chopper patrols Peruvian highlands as policeman watches countryside over Star Z-45 SMG.

LATIN AMERICAN SPECIALIST

Jay Mallin is an old hand at covering wars and insurgencies, particularly in Latin America. He covered the Cuban Revolution (1956-58) and subsequent communist takeover. Mallin was one of a handful of American correspondents in Cuba at the time of the Bay of Pigs invasion, and when he was arrested, talked himself free and went into hiding until he could slip out of the country.

He covered the October 1962 missile crisis from Miami, after having been one of the first reporters to reveal that Soviet troops and missiles

were being introduced into Cuba. Subsequently, he covered the U.S. Green Berets in Panama and Venezuela, the Dominican civil war, the conflict in Vietnam, the war between Honduras and El Salvador, the Tupamaro terror campaign in Uruguay, the start of the Nicaraguan insurrection and the civil war in El Salvador.

Mallin has written for SOF since the first issue, and he has contributed to the Air University Review, the Marine Corps Gazette and other publications. He edited the series on unconventional warfare published by the University of Miami Press and he has written eight books, mostly dealing with military affairs.

other casualties were guerrillas and prisoners. The interior minister, retired Air Force Gen. Jose Gagliardi, reported: "The assault was carried out by well-prepared people and was similar to a military commando attack."

In addition to the men guarding the prison, there were other police and army units in Ayacucho. But when the attack was launched the Guardia Civil and PIP largely remained in their barracks. They claimed they defended them against attack, but the question of whether the rebels actually did assault these stations has subsequently been raised. The army unit did not move in; it was ordered to stay put by higher authorities. This was in line with the government's policy of keeping the military out of the country's insurrectional problems.

Exact casualty figures from the attack are unclear. The reported casualties may have included three suspected guerrillas who were in a hospital at the time of the assault and were evidently taken out afterward and shot. In another incident, security personnel twice undid the life-support system of another hospitalized suspect. Doctors managed to save him both times.

As a result of the attack on the CRAS the government declared a state of emergency. A 2100-hour curfew was imposed and police reinforcements were sent to the city.

The attack on the prison was the climax of a terror and guerrilla-warfare campaign that has been increasing in intensity since 1979. The explosion of bombs, theft of weapons, blowing up of power lines, attacks on rural police posts, killing of specific individuals (landowners and suspected police informers) have all been part of this campaign. These actions have not been limited to Ayacucho but have occurred in Lima and other parts of the country as well. Indications are that the rebels are beginning to intensify their activities throughout Peru.

Early in August 1982, guerrillas captured and temporarily held the small town of Antapite near Ayacucho. Police reported that a number of peasants were injured and others tortured. The guerrillas wore hoods. Shortly afterward, guerrillas destroyed an agricultural research station near Ayacucho, killing purebred cattle and writing slogans with their blood. One night in mid-August 1982, bombs exploded in several places in Lima, including the Justice Ministry. But, more importantly, the rebels knocked down five power pylons outside Lima, blacking out the capital and some 10 other cities.

Millions of people were left without electricity. A newspaper commented bit-

PERU

Sympathizers entomb guerrilla killed in action against *Guardia* troops.





terly that Lima was "demonstrated to be an open city, a center without refuge and an orphan without defenders, on whose streets the agents of extremist terror operated with impunity." The government declared a state of emergency in the two provinces in which Lima and its nearby port are located.

The guerrillas responded by staging a five-hour attack on the police station in the town of Vilcashuaman. When the hooded guerrillas pulled back, they left behind the bodies of 30 of their members — according to the police. Six policemen died in the attack.

Reporting to the Chamber of Deputies, Interior Minister Gagliardi said toward the end of August 1982 that 74 persons had been killed so far in Peruduring the year as the result of 370 subversive actions. He said the Sendero had established "subversive cells" in 13 of the country's 24 provinces (in Peruthey are called departamentos). There had been, said the official, 262 actions in Lima alone.

munist parties. There are Stalinist, pro-Albanian, pro-Peking, pro-Moscow and pro-Cuba parties as well as two or three Maoist and three Trotskyite groups. The major party is the *Partido Comunista Peruano*, which is the Soviet-linked organization. The PCP and other major factions are joined in an *Izquierda Unida* (Left United) coalition.

The Sendero Luminoso was born at the University of Huamanga in Ayacucho. The founder of the movement, Abimael Guzman, was head of personnel at the university and professor of philosophy. Guzman and other Marxists virtually took over political orientation of the university 20 years ago. Students included people not only from the surrounding area but middle-class students from throughout Peru, who were unable to get into other universities. When they returned home later, they carried their political beliefs with them. Today many are ready recruits for the Sendero, enabling it to spread its activities far beyond Ayacucho.

At a party congress held toward the end of 1980, the

Sendero decided on a "generalized offense."

Although not every terrorist and guerrilla act of the past few years may have been the work of the Sendero, certainly the great majority of subversive activities have been. The Sendero are today the largest, most dangerous clandestine organization fighting the Peruvian democracy. The Sendero can trace their roots to the turbulence that affected the communist movement in Peru in the mid-'60s as a result of the rupture between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. The name Sendero Luminoso derives from a phrase in a work of Jose Carlos Mariategui, founder of the Peruvian Communist Party; he said the road to communism was "the shining path." During the '60s, the communist movement of Peru acted like an amoeba: Factions split off and then other factions split from the factions that initially broke away.

One of these groups was the Sendero, whose official name is the Partido Comunista Peruano (Sendero Luminoso). There are, however, some 24 political organizations of one shade or another in Peru that consider themselves to be com-



Sendero Luminoso nocturnal raids have forced government to impose curfews on some Peruvian cities.

Today, Guzman supposedly continues to lead the Sendero. His war name is "Camarada Gonzalo." Guzman, however, has not been seen by any outsider in several years — and this adds to the Sendero's aura of mystery. The vice-minister of interior, Hector Lopez Martinez, states: "The Sendero manifest a form of messianism typical of the Andean areas. Their cultural outlook is mythical. They think that Guzman has unnatural qualities."

Martinez declares that the Sendero "live the austere, simple life of the countryside. They have a spirit of sacrifice. They are one of the most disciplined groups in Peruvian politics."

All the weapons used by the Sendero

seem to have been taken from the police and the army; there appear to be no foreign sources. One of the most important arms used is dynamite, and there is an abundance of this in Peru because of widespread mining. The Andean people use dynamite for everything from mining to killing fish for food. Substantial quantities of dynamite have been stolen by the Sendero and used in attacks on haciendas, police posts and the CRAS in Ayacucho. Sticks of dynamite have also been exploded at the U.S. and Red Chinese embassies in Lima — an interesting indication of whom the Sendero considers its foreign enemies.

One of the most curious attacks was made on the presidential palace in downtown Lima in March 1982. Five dynamite charges were thrown at the building—and the rebels used Inca-style slingshots to hurl the dynamite.

At a party congress held toward the end of 1980, the Sendero decided on a "generalized offensive." Since then they have said little or nothing. They have issued no manifestoes; they do not claim their acts of terrorism — all of which add to the mystique of the Sendero Luminoso. They have left no doubt, however, about their ideological orientation. In December 1980, they hung a dog from a lamppost in downtown Lima, and on it was the name of an anti-Maoist Chinese leader. When the guerrillas raid an hacienda or overrun a police post they leave a hammer-and-sickle red flag.

Minister Gagliardi states, "They are enemies of the country with an obsolete ideology no longer in effect even in the country in which it originated." A Peruvian magazine, Equis X, has compared the Sendero with the Khmer Rouge of Cambodia. A foreign military observer comments: "They do not explain what they are fighting for. They don't seem to know what they are fighting for. They are anarchists." A Peruvian newspaperman who has been covering Sendero activities, Gustavo Gorriti, wrote that they are "attached to the Quechua [Indian] interpretation of a Maoism that no longer exists." Gorriti added, "[To] the crypto-dogmatic Abimael Guzman ... Fidel Castro would be ... a peon of imperialist social revisionism."

Their purism is evidently so great that the Sendero have abjured participation in the cocaine traffic to finance their operations, although this product is plentiful in the Andes. They have, however, apparently not been reluctant to collect taxes of sorts from those who are involved in the traffic.

No one knows how many Sendero there are. The vice-minister of interior says, "They are not numerous." He places the membership at between 2,000

and 3,000, "all very active." These figures are higher than the usual estimates of Sendero strength; the minister may be including supporters of the movement as well as actual guerrillas. Probably the best estimate of active guerrillas, primarily in the Ayacucho area, is between 400 and 600 men. Guardia Civil Gen. Hector Rivera Hurtado, commander of the combined police forces at Ayacucho, states that guerrillas in his zone of operations number 150 to 200. He says that they operate in small groups but bring sympathizers along when staging attacks to create an impression of greater numerical strength.

In March 1982, the newspaper Diario La Republica published what it claimed was an exclusive interview with "Camarada Pedro, member of the National Directorate of Sendero Luminoso." That the interview actually took place is unconfirmed by other sources, and it is suspected that all or part of it was made up

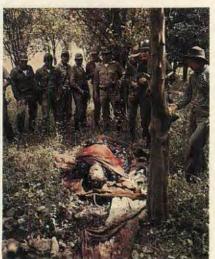
cause of the existence of the revolutionary situation lies in the crushing oppression which the majority of the population suffers, not only the proletariat but also the small producers, particularly farmers. The oppression, hunger, misery get sharper. The absence of rights of the people becomes ever more manifest."

All this might be impressive — but for the fact that Peru is today recognized as one of Latin America's freest democracies. That "Pedro's" interview could be openly published is ample proof of that. On 18 May 1980, presidential and congressional elections were freely held; Fernando Belaunde Terry was elected president. Belaunde has long headed the country's oldest mass-based party, the Alianza Popular Revolucionaria Americana (APRA). "Pedro" assailed the Belaunde government as a representative of "the bureaucratic bourgeoisie" linked to "Yankee imperialism."

As for other communist groups, "Pe-

"The army chiefs don't want to go in. If things go badly,

they will be blamed."



Former Senderista examined by Guardia force that killed him in sweep on Ayzarca ranch.

from other writings attributed to Sendero members. Nevertheless, the interview is an accurate reflection of Sendero thinking. "Pedro" declared the Sendero believe there "exists in the country a revolutionary situation in development" and "at the present moment there is no other path than armed struggle.... for the attainment of the revolution; all the rest is reformism and revisionism" — a clear crack at the more peaceful policies of other communist groups in Peru.

"Pedro" continued: "The root, the

dro" referred to them as traitors to the revolution and "great capitulators." So much for Marxist-Leninist brotherhood!

Probably nowhere else in the world are police used to combat rural guerrillas. Of the Peruvian police, the previously quoted foreign military observer states: "The police are not prepared to fight guerrillas. They are not prepared in training. They are not prepared in weapons. They are not prepared psychologically." (SOF has learned that they are armed with a hodgepodge of firearms, including Mod. 1903 Springfields, Mod. 98 Mausers, M1 Garands and U.S. carbines for rifles, and Colt and Smith & Wesson .38 revolvers and .45 ACPs.)

Furthermore, says the same observer: "The army chiefs don't want to go in. If things go badly, they will be blamed. They are also suffering from the criticism they received during 12 years of military rule. They want the government to beg them on bended knee."

The Belaunde government does not want to call upon the military to try to eliminate the guerrillas, because Peru's last freely elected government before 1980 was one of Belaunde's also — and it was toppled by a military coup not long after the army wiped out the last significant guerrilla campaign in Peru.

A major problem for today's Be-

launde government — and a factor contributing to the spread of discontent and insurrection — is a poor economy. The government has launched a development program that seeks to restore free-market conditions to an economy which was heavily state-controlled during the military regime, but this program has been slowed by budget deficits and depressed world markets. Production is down on farm cooperatives set up by a previous administration, and since some

fighters operating from within jungle or mountain areas — it has been historically difficult for even regular army forces to combat guerrillas. Almost always specially trained troops are needed, such as the U.S.-trained Bolivian Rangers, who pursued and captured Ernesto "Che" Guevara and Fidel Castro's LCB (Lucha Contra Bandidos), who cleaned the Sierra del Escambray of guerrillas in 1961. For police to fight guerrillas is far more difficult and, in fact, virtually un-

counter-guerrilla fighting. The Sinchis, distinguished by their red berets, are once again in action against guerrillas.

The commander in Ayacucho, Gen. Rivera, is a veteran of the 1965 campaign who is well-versed in guerrilla tactics. Prior to his present command, he was director of the Guardia's School for Officials. Rivera took command in Ayacucho on 8 April 1982, and he soon gave the police what he calls "a more dynamic, more energetic phase"; i.e., he got them out of the barracks and after the guerrillas. Rivera, when I visited him, was conducting a sweep of an area along the Pampas River where guerrilla activity had been heaviest. For this searchand-destroy action he was using Sinchis and men of the Servicios Especiales, Lima's riot police. The usefulness of urban riot police in a mountain setting is certainly open to question.

The area immediately around Ayacucho is dry and craggy, with only sparse vegetation clinging to the rocks. Areas a little further away, however, have more vegetation and trees and are the general zone in which the guerrillas are operating. Says Rivera: "The activists are out in the country. The intellectual leaders are coordinating them from Ayacucho."

The reasons for the guerrilla movement in the Ayacucho area seem clear: economic stagnation combined with the university serving as a font for Marxist thinking and action. But are these the only reasons? The question asked both by Peruvians and knowledgeable foreigners is: "Why Ayacucho?" Despite the Sendero's apparent lack of connection with any foreign country, was Ayacucho actually picked — perhaps by Havana — because of its symbolism, since it is the place in which Simon Bolivar defeated the Spaniards in 1824, ending Spanish rule in South America?

Is this the beginning of an effort to turn into reality Fidel Castro's prediction years ago that the Andes would be the Sierra Maestra of South America? At least one ambassador in Lima sees this as a "sinister" possibility. Peru has a particularly strategic position on the continent: It borders on five countries and could serve as a breeding ground for continental subversion, much like the subversive/guerrilla-warfare center into which Guevara hoped to convert Bolivia.

Cuba has given guerrilla training to Peruvians. To date, however, no proof has emerged of a Cuba-Sendero link. At present such an association may not be ideologically possible. But as the Sendero grow they may well reach a point — say if the Peruvian Army enters the fray — where they will need foreign assistance. And what more likely place to look for it than Havana?

Is this the beginning of an effort to turn into reality Fidel Castro's

prediction years ago that the Andes would be the Sierra Maestra of South America?

Communist tracts and equipment combined with dynamite are the primary weapons of Senderista rebels.

crops are exported, this has adversely affected Peru's balance of payments.

Peru is a mining country, but foreign prices for its lead, copper and silver are all down. Gold prices are down but have been offset by increased production. The same is true of Peruvian oil.

Inflation is running at a rate of about 60 percent annually, and labor is demanding wage hikes. Unemployment and underemployment in Lima are estimated at 50 percent of the working force. These factors all add to the headaches of a government facing a growing insurrection.

To counter that insurrection, the government has taken a number of steps. States of emergency and suspensions of constitutional rights have been decreed in the Lima and Ayacucho areas. The government has sought to tighten control over the sale of weapons and dynamite. The task is formidable, however: It was estimated in February 1982 that there were 195 places in Peru where arms could be bought and 827 places where dynamite was used.

Also, in February 1982, Belaunde signed an anti-terrorist decree which defined terrorist activities and set forth prison penalties for participating in them (10 to 20 years), providing weapons or funds (10 to 15 years) or supporting them (five to 10).

Because of the nature of guerrilla warfare — hit-and-run tactics by rugged heard of. The vice-minister of interior admits the guerrillas in the Ayacucho area have been aided by "the desolate, inaccessible terrain and deficiencies of the police." He says, "They are not trained for this and they don't have the vehicles they need."

To help remedy this situation, the army is providing trucks and the air force helicopters. The choppers are useful for patrol and for transporting police to places difficult to reach via land routes. But because of high altitudes at which the choppers must operate in the Ayacucho area (sometimes more than 12,000 feet), their carrying capacity is limited to about six or eight men on each flight.

The government is obtaining materiel for the police, ranging from new weapons to vehicles and communications equipment. It includes long-range rifles, fragmentation grenades, tents, sleeping bags and raincoats. During the 1965 guerrilla outbreaks, a special unit—called Sinchis—of the Guardia Civil was set up and trained specifically for

WELCOME TO GUATEMALA

Back-Burner Revolt: SOF Visits A Modern-Day Western

Text & Photos by Jim Morris



To the right, way down the flightline in front of the hangar, a blue-and-white Bell Jetranger lifted off. I watched as it skimmed down the taxiway toward me. Its skids touched lightly on the concrete and bounced as the little ship strained to get airborne. The pilot waved for me to get in.

I doubletimed to the chopper, ducking when I got under the rotors' downdraft. I opened the flimsy door and climbed into the left-front seat, put on the seatbelt and the spare headset. There was a snap and a hiss in my ear. A voice said, "The piece between the seats is yours." It was a standard service .45, loaded, with a loaded magazine beside it. I had no way of knowing if there was a round in the chamber.

Carlos, the pilot, lifted off and we peeled out of the traffic pattern, heading toward the mountains. A wealthy young Guatemalan businessman and landowner, he was flying me to his ranch.

I decided not to check the pistol. I wanted Carlos thinking about flying, not about my accidentially shooting a hole in the aircraft — and I'd only need the pistol if the chopper went down. Carlos's own Parkerized .45, with custom sights, nestled in an IPSC-style fastdraw rig on his belt. Behind us in the backseat was a stolid young man with a pencil-thin moustache and another .45.

Carlos flew for quite a while, pointing



out famous mountains and volcanoes. "I want to help you with this story," he said. "But I would appreciate it if you didn't use my real name, or give the location of the ranch. The guerrillas tried to kidnap me in 1978. I can do without another incident like that."

"What happened? You buy out?" "I shot one of them and got away."

He shrugged.

He didn't seem to want to say any more about it, and talking to the pilot over the intercom isn't the best way to do an interview. So, when I got back to the States, I asked a Guatemalan friend in Miami if he knew the story.

"Carlos was walking in Guatemala City, about a block from the Central Park," he said, "when a car pulled up beside him and two men tried to drag him inside.

"One had a submachine gun. Carlos slammed the door into him, to slap the gun aside, before drawing and shooting

LEFT: Ranch security is important in Guatemala's guerrilla-infested countryside. Here ex-para guard takes aim with Remington 760 pumpaction rifle in watch tower on top of barn at Carlos's cattle ranch. CENTER: While in Guatemala, Morris observed military as well as civilian defenses. Here Guatemalan Army troopers form up for chow. RIGHT: Entrance gates to Carlos's ranch are guarded at all times. Gate guard stands watch with M1 carbine.

him. He dropped the weapon, but the other guy shot Carlos with a pistol.

"The driver started to pull off. Carlos got the submachine gun and emptied it into the car as it drove away." Understandably Carlos didn't want another try made on him.

A broad valley spread out below us. with a volcano climbing high above to the right. Coming toward us was a drifting, shifting raincloud. Soon streaks of rain streamed past like tiny comets on the plexiglas. It was like flying around inside a light bulb. Then the clouds broke apart and we were out over the valley again.

I couldn't get over how much better visibility was from the co-pilot's seat than it is sitting in the door of a Huey. "This could be addictive," I said to Carlos over the mike.

He looked at me and grinned under his aviator's shades. "Fun, isn't it?"

We went on a tour of burned-out ranch houses and coffee and sugar mills. The guerrillas had destroyed them over the past couple of years. All that remained at each house site was a blue-painted swimming pool.

At each ruin, Carlos told of family or individual effort to build a business, only to see the work of a lifetime go up in a night. In two cases the families had been massacred as well.

"Are any of these farms still working?" I asked.

"Yes, in a few cases the owners fly in

from the city to work them, but that's very expensive, and also very inefficient. Nobody laughs at my security measures now, like they used to. Wait until you see my place. Andy's done a great job with the security. It's expensive, but we're still in business.'

We flew down a long stretch of highway between lushly wooded, towering mountains, excellent guerrilla terrain. For a while the highway followed a river, its banks lined with palm fronds and spiky tropical vegetation. Then the river meandered one way and the road bent the other. It ran through a small town and on toward the horizon. I spotted a bus stalled on the roadside.

"You see that bus?" Carlos asked. "Yeah."

"Might be an ambush." He circled back toward the bus, gaining altitude, and keeping a good distance between us and it. The Jetranger would be as tempting a target as a guerrilla marksman would ever get.

The people by the bus stood in a semi-circle around the front tire. Some others were under the trees across the road. "Looks like they're just changing a tire," I said.

A motorcycle came down the road and buzzed by the bus. "A roadblock wouldn't have let that guy through," Carlos said. He peeled off from his orbit and we headed once more toward the distant mountains.

"I climbed that mountain when I was





a kid," Carlos said, pointing to the highest peak in view. "There are guerrillas on it now." He flew closer and lower. I scanned the peak for signs of guerrilla activity. If they were any good I wouldn't see any.

I didn't.

"Look at the base of that mountain," Carlos said. "You may see something familiar." I looked. Sure enough, there were a couple of squad tents surrounded by about a hundred poncho lean-tos. The blue-and-white Guatemalan flag flew from a pole at the highest point in camp, next to one of the squad tents. It looked like a Forward Operational Base for patrols on that mountain.

Soon we circled Carlos's family's ranch. We set down beside the main house, within a well-constructed defensive perimeter with an inner cyclone fence, three strands of out-angled barbed wire atop it. Beyond that was a ploughed strip of mines and wire. Floodlights perched at each corner of the fence. There was also a huge barn within the perimeter, with what looked like an observation tower on top.

A young guy in jeans and a paracaidista (paratrooper) T-shirt, and cowboy hat, lounged in back of one of the outbuildings, with an M16 in his lap, looking out across the valley.

As we got out of the chopper, Carlos introduced me to the man who had flown in back. His name was Julio. There had been too much noise for introductions before. He had had a kind of menacing glare, there in the back of the chopper, but as we shook hands his smile was shy and friendly.

Just as we started to walk toward the house, another man came out, preceded by a German Shepherd that looked like it ate a rifle squad for breakfast every day. It bounded up and sat on its haunches with its tongue lolling out, panting, looking at us with eyes both fierce and eager to please.

"Andy's in the field with some of the troops," Carlos said. "Let's go into the house and clean up. Then we'll have lunch and I'll show you around."

Andy was just coming up the walk when I emerged from the bathroom. A sandy-haired *gringo*, he wore running shorts and shoes, *paracaidista* T-shirt and baseball cap, with a belted .45 on his hip. He looked about 35 or 36, and was in excellent physical condition.

I had not met him before, but he was an old friend of SOF's. He had an excellent reputation as a career NCO who had fought with both the U.S. Marines in 'Nam and the SAS in Rhodesia. He had done security work in the States. He was head of ranch security.

Andy and I went to talk on the porch. Settling into wicker armchairs, we got it straight between us just what we could and could not publish about his operation. Basically I could say what and when, but not who or where. How was to be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. And no faces in the pictures.

From his reputation I had expected a sort of Sgt. Rock character, but he wasn't like that at all. He reminded me of a sculptor I once met who made huge metal objects with a look of inevitability about them. Andy was an artist whose materials were men and the implements of war, whose art was the

design of a tight perimeter and a well-trained force with high morale.

Once we had the ground rules straight, we toured the ranch defenses. He showed me every weapon, every blockhouse, every strand of wire. The men were all ex-Guatemalan paratroops. Carlos and some of his ranch hands came along, pointing out prize bulls and feed lots.

We climbed four tiers of dusty ladders through belts and sprockets of machinery, to get to the observation tower on top of the barn. From up there the country was largely open, with few concealed avenues of approach.

After we had toured the inner perimeter we paused for lunch. Five or six men sat at the table. One of them, a slender, sensitive looking man of 30 or 35, was introduced as the ranch doctor. "Thirty or forty guerrillas have been spotted at a neighboring ranch," he reported. "They expect an attack."

Later, as Andy and I walked through the village outside the ranch buildings proper, we talked about that. "This place will be the last to go," he said. "If all these ranchers had taken the precautions that Carlos and his family have there'd be no worry. But as it is they can pick off the surrounding ranches and then lay siege to this place.

"This is the third country I've fought this war in. It's worth the fight, even to lose, but I sure don't want to see these people go down. They're really good people." He pointed out the church and the hospital, all part of Carlos's employment package.

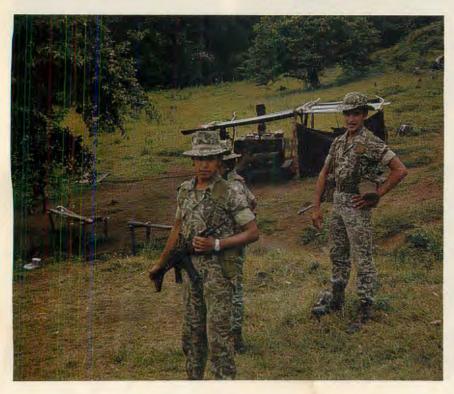
"We don't have to worry about their loyalty," Andy said. "They come for miles, just to work here."

It was an extraordinarily clean, orderly village. The people seemed cheerful and healthy.

The same Guatemalan who later told me the story of Carlos's attempted kidnapping also reported that Carlos's family were unusually farsighted employers, unlike other wealthy landowners whose exploitative employment practices were among the prime causes of the guerrilla movement.

The sun was halfway toward the horizon, and it was time to leave. We spent some time just flying around, looking at famous lakes and volcanoes, at the patches of small fields where the people owned land in the mountains.

Guatemalan Army patrol checks out countryside for signs of guerrillas. Trooper carries folding-stock Galil assault rifle.



"It's different here," I said, "much more relaxed than El Salvador."

"The Indians here are Mayan," he replied. "They are a passive people. In El Salvador they are descended from the Aztecs, very warlike."

We approached the outskirts of Guatemala City, and Carlos landed the chopper on a pad outside a hangar.

A pretty young girl stood beside a Volvo wagon, out by the road. She ran and greeted Carlos, who introduced her as his daughter.

"I would like you to meet my father as well," he said. "He's quite a man. Went to Texas for a cancer operation when he was 60, and learned to fly the helicopter while he was there."

It was a short drive to the office. It was after five and the workers had gone, but it could have been an office in the States: gray-metal desks, file cabinets, water coolers.

I put my hand on the .45 in my hip pocket. I had a feeling that I had wandered into the plot of a Western that, for some reason, they had decided to shoot in modern dress.

We walked into an inner office. Carlos said, "Jim, I'd like you to meet my father."

An extremely handsome man, tall, with white hair and a white guardsman's moustache, stood up. He smiled and we shook hands. He too had a .45 in an IPSC fastdraw rig on his belt.

"Welcome to Guatemala," he said.灾

CONVERSATION WITH THE PERSONERO

by Jim Morris

When a junior officers' coup overthrew the regime of Gen. Romeo Lucas Garcia in Guatemala in the spring of 1982, those concerned about the stability of Central America breathed a sigh of relief. Under Lucas, so-called "Right-wing Death Squads" had operated freely in the cities, or at least it was so reported in the American press, and Guatemala had seemed ripe for communist picking.

The young officers installed Gen. Efrain Rios Montt in the presidential

palace. He offered amnesty to the guerrillas, if they would cease operations, but this offer was rejected. Nonetheless, Death Squad activities were curtailed.

Then, in August, three months after the coup, a rash of stories broke in the Miami Herald, reporting wholesale massacres had occurred in Indian villages in Guatemala on the Mexican border. Terrified refugees, it was alleged, had fled into Mexico after the women had been raped and entire villages machine-gunned. The refugees couldn't say who had done the killing, but the attackers had come in helicopters. The Herald considered this certain proof that the raids were carried out by the Guatemalan Army.

There are flaws in this line of reasoning. For one thing, the guerrillas operate out of safe areas in Mexico, and it is just as easy for a well-financed communist insurgency to rent aircraft there as it is for dope dealers.

For another, it is illogical for a government to stop atrocities in one location, only to perpetrate them in another. It is possible, as exemplified by My Lai, for an isolated patrol to violate government policy and massacre a village, but if the patrol had used Air Force choppers it would be almost impossible to keep secret.

Furthermore, Gen. Rios Montt is a

LEFT: Chopper circles over ruins of burnt-out ranch house. Undamaged swimming pool is only remnant of vanished way of life. RIGHT: Security guard at Carlos's ranch moves into position with bolt-action Mauser-type hunting rifle. convert to the Church of the Living Word, a Pentecostal group which is convinced that his installation as president is the result of divine intervention. Few, if any, Christian movements now advocate the slaughter of minorities.

It is also a fact that the story broke the week before the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Aid was to consider aid to Guatemala. The odds against this happening by accident are precisely one in 52.

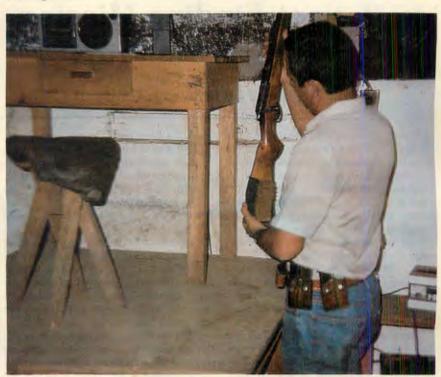
Whatever the true facts, not a word appeared in the *Herald* which gave the Guatemalan side of the affair, *nada*, even though an editorial in that paper called the government of Guatemala "despicable."

Guatamala had been tried by newspaper and found guilty without the defense being called.

SOF wanted to get to the bottom of this matter, as much as possible. So Maj. Mike Williams and I contacted Sr. Francisco Bianchi, press secretary to the president of Guatemala. He made an appointment for us to meet one of the four personeros — or personal representatives — of the president. He could not have chosen a better interviewee. The personero was Guatemalan by birth, but his father was American. He had lived in the States for twenty years, and been a sergeant in the Marine Corps during the Korean War.

Except for a deep tropical tan, he looked and talked like an American,

Continued on page 70



GUATEMALA'S UNFINISHED





paratrooper after week in the field. Sweater is essential in mountains where temperatures drop below 40 degrees at night. RIGHT: Guatemalan Army doorgunner mans M60 as Bell 412 chopper flies supplies into mountain draw occupied by Guatemalan paratroopers. Helicopters are favored targets for guerrillas.

SOF Fact-Finding Mission In Central America

Text & Photos by Robert J. Caldwell

T was raining when I stepped off the plane in Guatemala City. Shoulders hunched against the rain and chill -Guatemala's capital city sits on a plateau 5,000 feet above sea level - I started across the tarmac for the terminal. BOOM. It sounded like a 105, outgoing. A puff of white smoke rose above a sandbagged emplacement near the end of the runway.

BOOM. More white smoke.

"Geez," I mumbled to myself, "these guys are in worse shape than I thought. No wonder the tourists have stopped coming.'

The third BOOM did it. "What the hell's going on?" I asked the policeman standing at the edge of the tarmac. I had visions of having to pass through

guerrilla lines to get to my hotel.

"No habla Ingles," he said.
"Los guerrilleros?" l asked, nodding in the direction of the shelling.

"No, no...independencia," he

replied with a broad grin.

Of course, you stupid gringo. It was 15 September, Guatemala's independence day. Just a salute from the boys down there at the end of the runway.

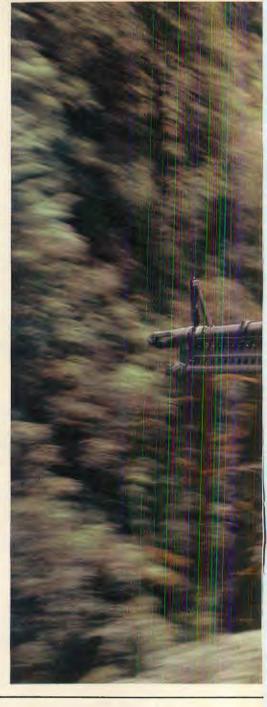
I relaxed. I was still smiling when I got to the customs check and laid out my luggage. The inspector picked up my auxiliary film bag - an army-issue gas mask bag.

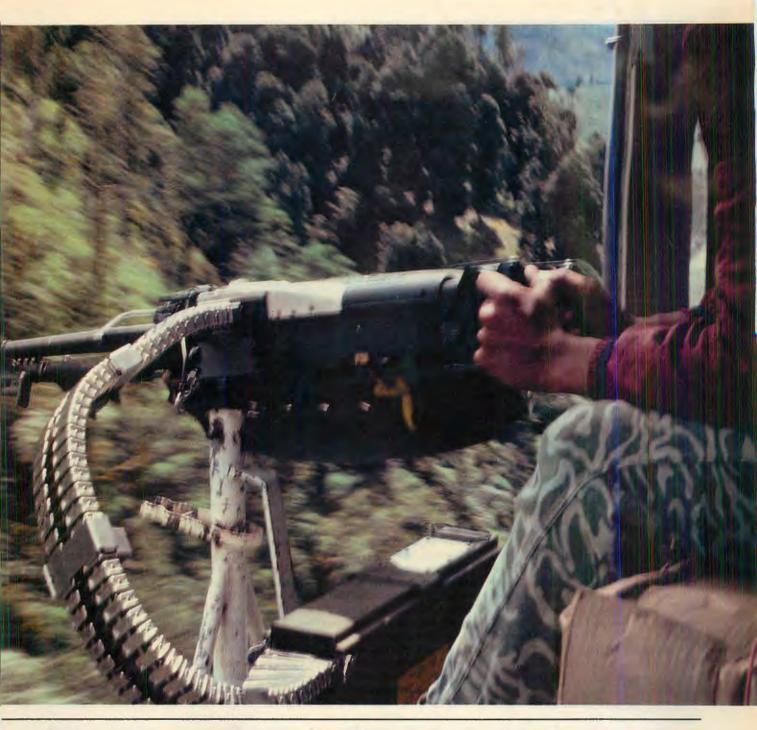
"Militar," he said shaking his head. He popped the snaps and dumped 40 rolls of Kodachrome on the counter. "No militar," he announced as he handed the bag to an unsmiling dude wearing a .38 on his hip. Unzipping my suitcase must have been worth a twograde promotion. Out came the cammies I had planned to wear in the field. Out came my two bush hats (one for green woodlands, one for brown scrub). Worst of all, out came my dark green, rubberized rain parka.

Somehow he missed the jungle boots I had wrapped in white plastic

and stowed in my kit bag.

"No militar," he repeated as he wrote out a receipt for my gear. It would all be waiting for me when I left Guatemala, he said. I followed him as he carried my stuff into a storeroom. Inside were green tents, green sleeping bags, green backpacks, camouflaged





jungle hats and jackets, and militarystyle ponchos, enough equipment to outfit a dozen guerrillas.

And that was the point. The Guatemalan government didn't want foreigners, with or without press credentials, bringing in anything that might prove militarily useful to the subversivos if it fell into their hands.

The 105s might have been firing blank rounds, but the war in Guatemala was real enough.

If, as the Guatemalan government and army were contending, the tide was turning against the guerrillas, what was happening in and around the town of Nebaj suggested some possible reasons. Nebaj (pron. Nay-BAK) is one of the three towns that constitute the

so-called Ixil triangle in the center of Quiche Department, some 110 kilometers northwest of Guatemala City. The triangle, named after the resident Ixil Indians, encompasses Nebaj, San Juan Cotzal and Chajul.

Eighteen months before, the guerrillas had controlled the Nebaj area and had many sympathizers in the town itself. The one road that connected Nebaj to the provincial capital of Santa Cruz del Quiche had been subjected to chronic guerrilla interdiction. Trucks and buses traveling the dirt road through the mountains to Nebaj had been stopped and burned. Members of the government security forces caught traveling the road alone or unarmed had been summarily executed by the guerrillas.

As late as June 1982, a volunteer American medical team sent to Nebaj by a private church group had been forbidden by the army to stray more than four blocks from the center of town. Security was still that uncertain.

I arrived in Nebaj by helicopter from Santa Cruz del Quiche. The chopper was a civilian-model Bell 412 in blue and white colors. But it was doing double duty, flying both civic action and military missions for the Guatemalan Army. Any doubt about whether the military crew was earning its pay was resolved by the recently healed gunshot wound in the co-pilot's forearm. the two bullet-sized dents in the pilot's armored "bathtub" seat, and the metal



LEFT: Airborne trooper wears Guatemalan jump wings and parachute battalion unit insignia on beret. Like 80 percent of all Guatemalan soldiers, this **NCO** is Indian rather than ladino. RIGHT: Wounded Guatemalan trooper, shot through foot, is rushed toward waiting chopper. Moments later, querrillas concealed nearby opened fire again.

patches covering several holes in the chopper's outer skin.

An M60 door gun had been mounted and personal weapons for the three-man crew included Beretta 9mm SMGs and Israeli-made Galil assault rifles, standard infantry arm for the Guatemalan Army. The pilot, a genial reservist in his mid-40s named Carlos, referred to the Bell 412 as the "Cadillac of helicopters." A day later, he'd have a chance to prove how well it responded under fire.

Nebaj's garrison commander was a 31-year-old army major known as "Comandante Tito." His red beret and "Kaibal" patch marked him as one of the Guatemalan Army's best — the equivalent of the U.S. Special Forces. Tito filled me in on the local situation.

The garrison included one company of paratroopers, one regular infantry company and the 23rd Mobilization Company, a reserve outfit called up three months before. Two-thirds of the troops were up in the surrounding mountains on extended patrols lasting up to a week or more.

The local guerrillas, thought to number several hundred under the command of a Cuban comandante, were operating in small groups, usually eight- to 10-man squads. Ambush was the favored tactic. Two Guatemalan

troopers had been wounded the week before in clashes with the guerrillas. Otherwise, all was relatively quiet.

But the big news in Nebaj was less military than political. During the past month, 2,000 Indians had trekked in from the mountains to ask the army for protection against the guerrillas. The troops had established a large refugee camp on a plateau a few klicks from town. A dirt airstrip had been carved out and an infantry platoon assigned to protect the strip and the refugees.

My own interviews with the refugees seemed to confirm the army's contention that the guerrillas were losing popular support. As one Indian campesino put it, "We just got tired of their empty promises....We don't believe in them anymore." Refugee accounts also confirmed that the guerrillas were turning increasingly to coercion and terror to keep the populace in line.

l went along when the Bell chopper flew out to resupply an isolated patrol in the mountains. About 40 paratroopers were camped in a narrow draw near one of the highest mountain passes above Nebaj. The paras were guarding the pass and sheltering several Indian families that had recently escaped from guerrilla-controlled areas. The refugees, who were waiting for a chance to get to Nebaj, com-

plained of "oppression" and "forced labor" under the guerrillas.

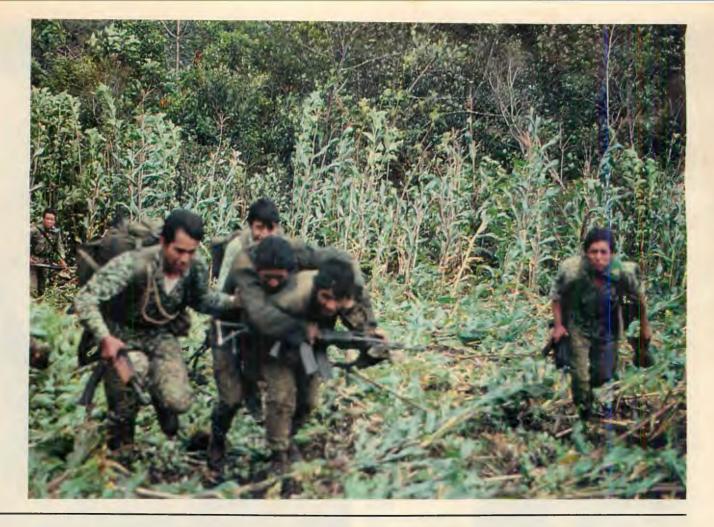
Comandante Tito had said that the road south from Nebaj to the larger town of Sacapulas and on to Santa Cruz del Quiche was now open and free of guerrillas. Taking him at his word, I rode with four unarmed civilians in a pickup truck through the mountains, arriving long after dark in Santa Cruz. We passed only a handful of trucks and buses along the road, but Tito was right about the guerrillas. They no longer controlled the road. Score one for the army.

The next afternoon, I was back with the Bell chopper and its crew as they returned a refugee family from Santa Cruz to Nebaj. On the way, we got word that a patrol had been ambushed in the mountains and that one trooper had been wounded and required evacuation. We dropped the refugees at the landing zone (LZ) in Nebaj and then headed for the patrol.

Flying through and above the clouds among the rugged pine and scrub-covered peaks was a potent remedy for boredom. Knowing that guerrillas eager for a shot at one of their favorite targets might be waiting below — or above as we flew through the passes — kept us all doubly alert.

As we banked and headed in toward

60 SOLDIER OF FORTUNE



the patrol, still a klick or two away, there was a sharp bang on the underside of the chopper. The crew chief, Oscar, and I exchanged glances and he swung the M60 into firing position. There were no more hits but we had been warned. The LZ could be hot.

The troopers on the ground were waving us toward a corn patch surrounded by trees and heavy scrub. It seemed less than ideal for a landing given the likely presence of guerrillas. But it was one of the few level spots around. Most of the corn had been harvested and the stalks reduced to sharp stubble.

We touched down just as the wounded trooper, carried piggyback by a buddy, was rushed toward the chopper. A squad emerged with him from the bush to cover us. The wounded man had been shot through the foot, which was wrapped in a dirty bandana. His Indian features were twisted in pain but he clung tightly to his Galil.

Then it happened. There was one shot and then another from the far side of the cornfield. A trooper shouted something at the pilot. The squad covering us dropped to the ground and opened up, firing toward the other side of the field. Oscar and I pulled the wounded man away from the door as the chopper rose a foot or so off the

ground, dipped forward, and skimmed across the field fighting for altitude.

Oscar was behind his M60 now, firing bursts into the scrub as we raced toward the brow of a ridge to escape the line of fire. The far side of the ridgeline was less a slope than a cliff dropping hundreds of feet toward the valley below. We barely cleared the ridge; then almost dove over the cliff. It was a neat piece of flying.

Minutes later, we were unloading our wounded trooper at Nebaj and scrambling over the chopper looking for holes. We found only one in the Bell's belly, apparently the hit we heard as we approached the patrol.

We had called ahead and Comandante Tito was waiting with the added armament it would take to convert our Bell 412 into an ersatz gunship. A tripod-mounted .30-cal. Browning was hoisted aboard and lashed to the floor in the door opposite the M60. The major and a young airborne lieutenant, carrying Galils and extra magazines, climbed in to man our new firepower.

We were off. On the way up to the mountain ravine where the guerrillas had reportedly taken cover, Tito and Oscar test-fired the machine guns. The Browning had a tendency to jam but was still serviceable.

Carlos brought us in over the ravine

low and fast. We caught sight of four or five guerrillas scattering among the trees. The 60 and the Browning were both going at once: Long bursts from the 60, shorter ones from the Browning. On the second pass, the Browning jammed again. Oscar grabbed a Galil and emptied a magazine on full auto.

When the 60 ran low on ammo after the next pass, everyone switched to Galils. The noise was deafening.

A pass or two later - I frankly lost count - the Galil barrels were smoking and the chopper floor was covered with brass. "Finished," said Oscar with a wave of his hand. The troops on the ground would move down into the ravine later to check for guerrilla casualties. But now they were calling us in again to pick up a prisoner.

We landed in a meadow higher on the mountain slope. This time there were no guerrillas and Comandante Tito had time for a quick chat with his patrol leader: The prisoner, an obviously scared Indian who looked to be in his late teens, was hustled aboard.

I learned later that he had been captured without a weapon. When I interviewed him the next morning in Nebaj he told of having been conscripted by the Marxist-led Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP). The insurgents had burned his identity card, thus making it





ABOVE: One of Nebaj's few ladino residents musters with his town's civil guard detachment. These paramilitary units. armed by Rios Montt government with M1 rifles and shotguns. provide local security and mount limited patrols in search of guerrillas. LEFT: Comandante Tito (red beret, right) briefs platoon leader and two NCOs of para unit on patrol near Nebaj.



less likely that he would flee or surrender to the army. Young males caught in the conflict areas without identity cards are usually presumed to be guerrillas.

He reported that the guerrilla band numbered about 30 men armed with an

assortment of M16s, AR-15s, G-3s and FALs. A few also carried shotguns. In exchange for his services as a laborer and food gatherer, the guerrillas promised him more land for his widowed mother, more food and a better life "after we defeat the army." But the

people he saw living in guerrilla-controlled areas were going hungry because so much food was taken by the insurgents.

He said there had been no political indoctrination and he didn't even know what EGP stood for. According to Ma-

GUATEMALA: POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE

by Robert J. Caldwell

Guatemala has been run by generals ever since a CIA-backed coup in 1954 overthrew the left-leaning government of Jacobo Arbenz. Guatemala is still run by a general — Jose Efrain Rios Montt. But Rios Montt is a general with a difference, several in fact.

In a predominantly Roman Catholic country, Rios Montt is a devout, evangelical Christian. In a country where most generals run the political gamut from deeply conservative to overtly reactionary, Rios Montt is something of a moderate. Above all, Rios Montt seems to recognize that the communist-led insurgency plaguing his country is not solely the product of Cuban-inspired subversion, although many of the guerrilla comandantes have in fact received training in Cuba.

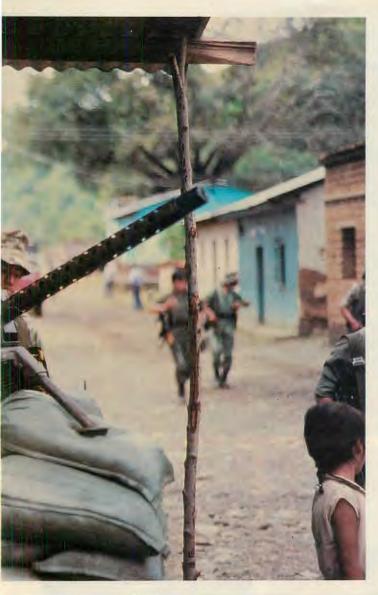
Rios Montt retired from the army and ran for president in 1974 as a candidate of Guatemala's Christian Democratic party. He lost, accused the government-backed candidate of stealing the election, and was promptly packed off to de facto exile as military attache at the Guatemalan Embassy in Madrid.

Shortly after he returned to Guatemala in 1978, he renounced his Roman Catholic faith and joined the evangelical Church of the Word. The church, known as *Verbo* in Guatemala, is a branch of the California-based Gospel Outreach.

By early 1982, Rios Montt was devoting full time to his church, working as administrator of *Verbo's* primary school in Guatemala City. And he wasn't pleased with what was happening in his country.

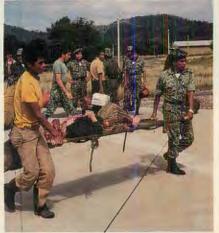
Marxist insurgents were gaining

62 SOLDIER OF FORTUNE MARCH/83



LEFT: Soldier manning .30-cal. **Browning stands** guard on main street in Nenton. town recently reclaimed from guerrilla control. RIGHT: Chico. 3-year-old orphan whose Indian parents were killed by querrillas, now lives with army unit that adopted him at base near Santa Cruz del Quiche. He salutes too. **LOWER RIGHT:** Guatemalan Indian woman suffering from severe malnutrition is carried from helicopter to ambulance at army base outside Huehuetenango City. She was treated at Huehuetenango military hospital as part of army's civic action program.





jor Tito, the boy would be released and allowed to stay in the refugee camp.

The department of El Quiche is one of the two provinces in Guatemala's western highlands. El Quiche, and the neighboring department of Huehuetenango, were the major centers of conflict between government troops and guerrillas. Proximity to Mexico helped explain that. The guerrillas were using the border areas of Mexico for sanctuary, R&R and as a conduit for arms presumably furnished by Cuba.

Most of the population of these two

departments outside the major towns consists of Indians - descendants of the ancient Mayans. The Indians are mostly subsistence-level farmers or agricultural workers. A few make a liv-

Continued on page 79

converts among the impoverished Indians of Guatemala's highlands. The government was responding with growing repression.

Terrorism from the left and right was reaching epidemic proportions. The Carter administration, reacting to widespread reports of human-rights violations by the government, suspended all military aid and sales to Guatemala.

When the government-supported candidate was declared the winner of presidential elections last March, Guatemala seemed headed for four more years of lawlessness and escalating insurgency. It was then that a group of young army officers, convinced that government corruption was losing the war against the subversivos, organized a coup.

Troops backed by tanks and artillery surrounded the national palace on the morning of 23 March. The lame-duck president, Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia, agreed to surrender but only to a senior officer.

The coup makers telephoned Rios Montt. He enjoyed a reputation for incorruptibility and had earned the respect of many junior officers during his tenure as commandant of Guatemala's military academy in the early 1970s.

Rios Montt agreed to negotiate the government's surrender and was in turn appointed chief of the new junta. He offered amnesty to any guerrillas who laid down their arms and surrendered. He promised unrelenting war against those who did not. He also promised a crackdown against left-wing terrorism and right-wing death squads, and an end to government abuses of basic human rights. He dubbed his strategy for prosecuting the war "fusiles y frijoles" - "bullets and beans" in English. It combined a renewed military offensive against the guerrillas with civic action programs designed to regain the allegiance of disaffected Indian campesinos.

I had come to Guatemala to see whether it was working. 叉







TOP: Reflections of old love and unfulfilled dreams: Survivors left personal monuments to those who did not return. Photo: Bob Poos

ABOVE: Vets packed Arlington National Cemetery amphitheater. Photo: Ron Shumate

LEFT: Young America fighting the world's wars: Bronze grunts will guard Memorial when complete. Photo: Ron Shumate

FINALLY, OUR DAY

Tears, Laughter, Pride: America Honors Viet Vets

Text & Photos by Bob Poos

THE tall, husky man with close-cropped salt-and-pepper hair pondered for a moment on the cloudy-gray, wind-whipped Washington, D.C., afternoon and then said: "I think what I like best about all of this is that there are no politicians here, no people from the Pentagon, no people from Capitol Hill. They weren't with us then and they're not now. That's the way it should be."

So spoke retired Marine Gunnery Sgt. Sean McCarthy, wounded in Vietnam while serving 1966-67 with the First Marine Reconnaissance Bn. He now lives in Triangle, Va., a little town in the northern part of the state totally surrounded by the Quantico Marine Base.

As McCarthy spoke, he stood in front of a huge, chevron-shaped, shiny-black wall of granite upon which are engraved the names of 57,931 men and eight women, all killed or still missing in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam War. It was Saturday, 13 November 1982 — the culmination of a week-long national salute to Vietnam veterans and the day their Memorial was dedicated.

Like the war itself, this memorial is and has been controversial and to a degree divisive. Almost everybody had something different to say about it.

McCarthy, a thoughtful man, continued, "I think it is going to take some time for me to distill it. I just haven't made up my mind yet."

Dan Miles of Fredericksburg, Va., once a rifleman in the Second Battalion, Seventh Cavalry Regiment, First Cavalry Division, however, had his mind made up. "I don't like it. I think it's just another black mark on the Vietnam veteran. It's built into the side of a hill like a retaining wall and it's black."

Rocco Gucci, former rifleman, Third Battalion, Seventh Marines, disagreed. "I think it's nice that after all these years they decided to do something for us." But, he added, "It won't be all over,

VIETNAMESE SALUTE by Bob Poos

A community of some 10,000 Vietnamese lives in the Washington D.C., area, most of whom visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site during the Salute to Vietnam Veterans week, and one who did is known to most Americans, by sight at least.

He is Gen. Nguyen Van Loan, former head of the Vietnamese paramilitary combat police. He is the man who appeared in one of the war's best-recalled photos, a Pulitzer Prize winner of 1968 in which AP photographer Eddie Adams captured him shooting to death a Viet Cong prisoner during the Tet offensive. Shortly before that execution, this VC had commanded a Viet Cong squad which had summarily executed some of Loan's police, a fact which went largely unreported in the Western press. (Photographer Adams later said he wished he had never taken the photograph, because it presented such a one-sided view of the

Those of us who knew Loan personally prior to the incident regarded him as a first-rate officer who maintained strict discipline over his troops and was thus highly regarded by them. He was also known as a devout Catholic and a family man who was almost fanatically devoted to his wife and children.

Loan, who now runs a restaurant in northern Virginia, didn't come specifically to look up any of the names carved on the memorial stone—although he certainly knew a great many of them—but merely to view for himself this monument spawned by the war in his homeland.

He said only: "It's beautiful."

though, until all the POWs and MIAs are either back or accounted for." Gucci is active in the National League of Families of POWs/MIAs.

John Sullivan, who served with the Ninth Army Division down in Vietnam's Delta, said simply, "It's beautiful. I think this whole week was beautiful. If I hadn't had the money to pay my way here. I'd of crawled."

And some of the more than 150,000 men and women there did very nearly that. They flew, they came on Amtrak, they drove aging cars, they came on buses, they collectively assembled in vans and shared expenses. One told this writer, "I just walked. Sometimes someone would see the uniform and pick me up. But mostly I walked [from Florida]. I was going to get here somehow."

Few of them came First Class, for these men were mainly from the blue-collar element of this country, which is fitting, for those were the ones who fought that war, either because they were called and felt something in them that refused to resist that call or because they felt that they had a duty to the country that offered more to them than any other on earth.

The sons of the upper-middle and upper classes were mostly too smart for that. They had college deferments — and professors who advised them how to best make use of such. Or they had enough money to move to and live comfortably in Canada or Sweden and enough cowardice to rationalize it and enough love of comfort and opportunity to move back when nothing more would be demanded of them.

Not such were Jerry Schaeffer, Dave Lyons, Mike Deverix and Rick Bowman, all now working men in the Lowell, Mass., area. Said Jerry Schaeffer: "You can say this about us: We're all from Massachussetts. We're all Marines and we'd all do it again." He could have

added that they were all wounded, too, which they were, Bowman badly enough to still require a forearm crutch.

All four wore red-rag armbands, signifying activity in the POW/MIA movement.

Schaeffer said, "First time I laid eyes on it [the Memorial] and saw those names, tears came to my eyes. I couldn't help it. Those were the names of my buddies." He added, "It'll be even better when they get the statue up."

A statue of three infantrymen clad in bush dress and peering at a tall flag pole topped by the colors is scheduled to be placed on the monument grounds later.

Deverix, trying to take out the day's chill with a paper cup of steaming black coffee, said, "I think this will bring people together again. It's the parade we never had."

Bowman chipped in, "And it's about time," while Lyons echoed his friend, "But we'd still go again. We'd go anytime." They all nodded.

The parade. It was one of the biggest, about 20,000 marchers, and certainly the damnedest Washington has seen in recent years. Extending 10 blocks along Constitution Avenue and culminating near the Memorial site, marchers from every state and possession, a contingent of high school drum majorettes, their legs red and goose-bumped from the whipping wind, occasionally a smart unit of regular troops and one particularly spit-and-polish contingent from Virginia Military Institute.

But drawing the loudest cheers from the crowd - and cheering it back came the units: First and Third Marine Divisions, First Infantry Division (The Big Red One), the First Cav, the 25th Division, Americal, Fourth Mechanized, 101st and 82nd Airborne, the Ninth Division from down in the Delta and the 173rd Airborne Herd. They marched along enthusiastically and calling cadence — but out of step — brandished their fists and yelled and gave ritual handshakes to bystanders. Too many of them were assisted by comrades, legs twisted and bent, others in wheelchairs, pushed by men who would never forget them - nor whom they would forget.

The camaraderie, the brotherhood, was palpable. Marines, soldiers, SEALs, infantrymen, engineers, artillerymen and tank drivers embraced one another and exchanged stories, no two of which much resembled one another. In that war, the line of vision was about three feet to either side and usually little more in front. Any of the stories could have come from anywhere in Vietnam and there were no strangers here in this part of Washington on this day.

Not many officers were on hand, but those who were had been fighting men. Maj. Gen. Jim Smith (USA-Ret.) stood in line waiting his turn to buy a hotdog and cup of coffee. Jim Smith in 1966 was a lieutenant colonel commanding the First Battalion of the Ninth Cavalry and the First of the Ninth saw as much combat as anybody. Jim Smith, while he commanded it, led the way every time in the first attack helicopter. He said of his visit to Washington, "This has been a tremendously emotional experience, a spiritual experience." Gen. William C. Westmoreland, who commanded in Vietnam, and who led the parade with a Medal-of-Honor-wearing Green Beret veteran, said much the same.



Jan Scruggs, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund head, stands before monument built with funds he helped collect from Vietnam veterans. Photo: Ron Shumate

Each unit passing along in the parade drew a bellow of crowd approval but the loudest of all came when, from out of the distance, there rose dimly at first and then into a thunder, the sound and then the sight of four Huey helicopters flying in formation, noses dipped forward.

Former infantryman Jerry Hardy of

Vietnam veterans, families and fans gathered to remember the living, the dead and faith that binds them together. Photo: Bob Poos Janesville, Wisc., looked up and said, "You'll never forget that sound. Sometimes it was the prettiest thing you ever heard, them coming in to save your ass." Another man, leaning on a cane, murmured hoarsely, almost groaned, "God, I'll never forget them — they came and took me away from Death."

Most of this crowd of 150,000 or so, were, of course, men. But not all. Eight of the names on that black granite wall are those of women: nurses all, and they were represented in this salute to Vietnam veterans.

Mrs. Charlotte Capozoli Miller, then Lt. Charlotte Capozoli of the 95th Evac Hospital in Danang, said to a reporter: "I'm very impressed and it brings back a lot of emotions, mixed emotions. I look at these people and I wonder if I put some of them back together again. I think this is a great thing. I hope it helps people put things back in perspective." She put her arm around another nurse, Mrs. Grace Barollet O'Brien, formerly of the 85th Evac in Qui Nhon, and continued, "We're all real proud, we all feel good we went there and did what we had to do."

Mrs. O'Brien said, "The magnanimity of all this is incredible. No picture could show it. I hope it serves to unify people and heal a lot of wounds. I'm so glad we all got to come together again."

Sarah Lee McGoran was troubled for a long time by what she saw at the 12th Evac in Cu Chi. "I was young and idealistic. I could deal with wounds or bodies but I couldn't look at the faces. If I did, I'd start to cry." Things got no better when she returned to the States at the height of the anti-war demonstrations.

"I didn't tell people I had been to Vietnam. I was the enemy." Life seemed to return to near normal until one day when she started having flashbacks: "I was driving on the freeway and there was this Army truck in front of me. The truck was real but all of a sudden it was stacked with bodies. And there were those faces...miles of faces" of the wounded she tried not to see.





Parade began as arena for partisan squabbles, ended in tearful brotherhood.

Photo: Bob Poos

EXCEPTION TO THE RULE by Bob Poos

All rules, of course, have their exceptions and the statement made in the main article about the Vietnam Veterans Salute to the effect that sons of the rich and or famous did not fight in Vietnam is one.

Not long after the Plei Me-Ia Drang-Chu Pong campaign (see "Bloody Ia Drang, p. 24), I was lying one day on a filthy, sweat-smelling cot in the First Cav's PIO tent, drinking from an ancient and very rusty can of Schlitz, which could be purchased at the tent for 30 piastres. I called this recovering from terrible experiences. AP Bureau Chief Ed White called it screwing off, not producing pictures and stories for the wires. He was right; I didn't care.

One of the kids in the IO shop who daily blessed the Gods of War for being assigned that task rather than the more strenuous one of rifleman, came in and said, "One of your press buddies is comin' in to the airstrip on a Caribou. Want to meet him?"

"So? They come in every day and leave the next. What's new?"

"There's something new and different about this one. I think you'll want to meet him."

"Who is it?"

"Howard K. Smith."

This caused me to get to my feet, a position I had not even dreamed of assuming minutes before.

There weren't many people that famous on earth then. Walter Cronkite was one. Huntley and Brinkley were right up there. And so was Howard K. Smith. They were the anchor people on the TV networks. Everybody had heard of them.

I asked, "What's he doing here?"
"Come to see his kid. Got shot up

in the Ia Drang. Decorated, too."

Yes, I did want to meet him. I hadn't the faintest idea he had a son in the First Cavalry Division. So I followed the IO kid outside and got in the jeep and we went to An Khe's dusty airfield. The Caribou arrived minutes later and with it Smith, then ABC's anchorman.

I introduced myself and inquired if it would be OK if I did a story on the reunion. (Smith had paid his own way over and was — or at least was trying to — reimburse the military for any costs he incurred them.)

He said, "There's not much I can do to stop you, but I hadn't planned on any publicity about this. I just wanted to see Jack. I'd prefer it if you didn't write anything."

Much surprised, because I had never met a TV personality of any kind, let alone one of Smith's stature, who didn't dwell on publicity as though it were Manna from Heaven (which maybe it was for them), I promised not to write anything if I could just tag along. Fine.

So I was witness to a very tender reunion at Seventh Cavalry head-quarters. And I never did write anything about it until now. Young Smith had indeed been badly wounded in the Ia Drang and decorated for heroism. But he told few, if any, of his buddies in the Garry Owens who his father was. I never did learn why Jack Smith had not chosen to follow the path of the rest of his peer group, but he didn't, and he did choose to do his duty in Vietnam along with others not so fortunate by birth.

When I met him, he was a shy young man, reluctant to talk about either his injuries or his exploits, even to his dad. Now that he is a famous TV star in his own right, I wonder if he is still so. I doubt it, but then one never knows about people like that.

But a release came at this gathering in Washington with greetings from scores of men who tried to say thank you to the nurses who cared for them.

"Don't you see," said McGoran, "I needed to hear from these guys how they felt about we nurses did over there. That it meant something. I've waited 14 years for that."

Joe White, 34 (most present were in their mid-30s), of Baltimore, a Marine sniper in 1968-69, said just exactly what he felt about the nurses. White, already once wounded, fell into an ambush and took 13 bullets after being hit the first time. He was unconscious for 23 days and still marvels at "how they took care of me. I'm supposed to be dead, man. The person I'd most like to find and thank is the Air Force nurse who crouched by my stretcher and held my hand all the way from Yokosuka, Japan, to Andrews [Air Force Base]. She stayed with me all the way, man. I don't know her name or where she came from but she was a redhead. And she had beautiful legs."

Before the final dedication, a small, red-picket snow fence served to keep the main crowd away, with only relatives and friends of those whose names are carved on the monument admitted to place small wreaths and an occasional photo at the base or gently touch the glistening stone.

The veterans themselves exerted crowd control. It was possibly the most orderly mass demonstration ever seen in Washington, unlike those of the "Peace Movement" in the '60s and early '70s, which deteriorated into ugly riots, assaults on police and desecration of the American flag as well as everything else this country stands for.

These men did not need that. They had done their fighting and it was the real thing in another world from those well-fed ones who had preceded them years before on these very grounds, screaming for peace. There are 57,939



He was there: Marine Commandant Robert H. Barrow now heads USMC, but he was CO of 9th Marine Regiment on the DMZ. Photo: Ron Shumate

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names on that black chunk of rock to testify to that. If anyone appreciates peace, it was those 150,000 men gathered here because they had to go to war to learn what it meant.

Speeches by dignitaries were all, wisely, short, including the one by a wounded veteran, former Army corporal Jan C. Scruggs, who conceived the idea and who said, "Being a Vietnam veteran was something of a dubious distinction when I returned. But today this situation has

Scruggs went on, "I know I speak for you all when I say, 'Thank you.' Thank you, America, for finally remembering. All of us can now be proud of being Vietnam veterans...and I know that our country appreciates our service."

Scruggs was being polite. The veterans themselves had paid for their monument - \$7 million — they had staged and marched in their own parade and by the sheer force of their deeds and their personalities they forced the people of this country to pay homage to them, as justly deserved a recognition as ever paid by Americans to any veterans of any war.

And then it all came to an end as the glorious strains of "The Star Spangled Banner" pealed from Marine Corps Band instruments and rolled over the nearby hilly Virginia countryside.

All those veterans present stood at rigid attention and the only sound heard was a slight sighing of wind in the bare tree branches above. Most men saluted, whether wearing whole or partial uniform or ragged blue jeans, whether covered or bareheaded. All had tears glistening on their cheeks.

So the Vietnam veterans finally had their hour, their day, their week. It had been a long time in coming and just like overseas, they had done almost all of it

But it was a fine day and a fine moment in Washington, 150,000 men and women sharing a peculiar mixture of joy and bittersweet recollection. This is really the beginning for the Vietnam veteran, since rather than the parades and national welcomes extended to returning fighting men after such conflicts as World Wars I and II, these men were returned home singly, almost as if the government which sent them was somehow ashamed of showing them to public scrutiny.

Now the Vietnam veteran has begun to receive the just recognition that was his due all along.

And it is said that out of all evil grows some good. Perhaps this episode of national shame and now embarrassment will serve to ensure that this country never again forgets these words written nearly a century ago about soldiers who suffered similar insults and indifference from those they served:

"Makin' Mock 'O Uniforms That Guard You While You Sleep

Is Cheaper Than Them Uniforms, And They're Starvation Cheap.""

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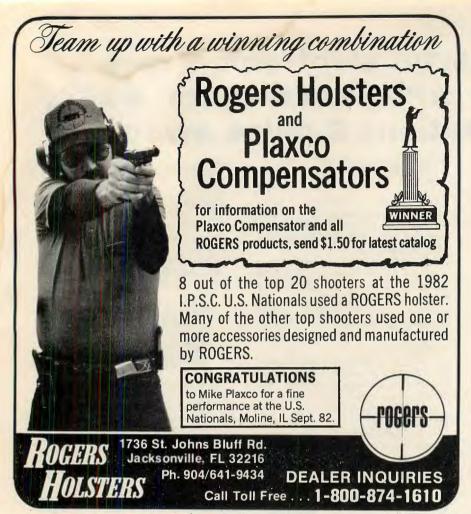
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WELCOME

Continued from page 57

and he had a gringo name. He had, in fact, an Okie accent, picked up as project engineer on a dam project in southeast Oklahoma. Here was a man who was intimately knowledgeable on Guatemalan affairs.

SOF cannot report with certainty that everything he said was true, but he obviously believed it to be true, and he is in a position to know. He is not a politician but an engineer (i.e. not a professional liar). He has only been in government two months, and so cannot yet have been corrupted by the circumstances of politics.

"I'll have to ask you not to print my name," he requested. "If you did I'd have to travel around with a bunch of bodyguards, and I don't think I could do my job that way." It is probably naive of him to think he can keep his identity secret, but he played square with us, and SOF will not violate a confidence.

His job is to see that local government gets reinstalled as soon as the army has established security in an area. "Here, there are three stages to what we're going through. The first is military operations, which merely create a framework of security around a town or village. The next step is to try to get government back in, because one of the first things the guerrillas do is try to destroy any semblance of government. That's where I begin to function, within the civilian government structure.

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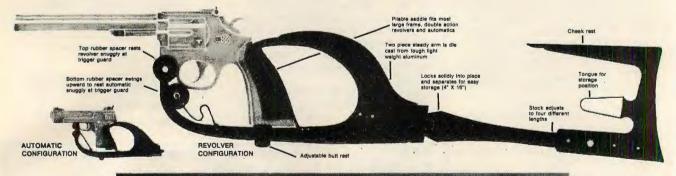
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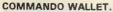


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"By letting the people analyze their own needs, we try to encourage them to participate as much as possible in their own destiny. We encourage them by having them match their own resources to their needs at the hamlet level. Then the governmental structure starts moving in those items that can't be provided locally. These get distributed at the municipal level, in these little hamlets and villages.

SOF asked, "While the army is in the area. is it correct to assume that you have something corresponding to CDG - Civil Defense Groups - in which the army takes selected young men within the village and trains them militarily?"

The personero nodded. "In some cases ves. in some, no.'

"It depends on the reliability of the village

He shook his head. "Not so much reliability. We have run into villages which have refused to take arms against anybody. If the people just want out, this is respected, and then a military presence has to stay there for a period of time.

"How do the guerrillas respond when the people won't take arms, after the army goes away?"

"Well," the personero responded, "we've had cases - Chacalte was one - where the guerrillas slaughtered fifty or sixty people because they were fundamentally unprotected."
"Were they killed at random," SOF asked,

"or were they selected?"

The personero shook his head, "Ah, they just killed anybody they could get their hands on: men, women, children, babies. I heard a story of a 6-year-old girl that was one of the survivors of a family. Somebody asked her how her little 3-month-old brother was killed. She said a guerrilla took him by his feet and smashed his head against a rock.

"These attacks have created panic. I was in another village not too long ago in which about 1,500 people had come in from the mountain. There were probably five or six thousand more in that area who want to come in. You should have been with me yesterday, because I had an opportunity to talk to two exguerrillas who were captured, a boy and a girl. One of 'em was pretty high up in the ranks. I got a layout of how the whole guerrilla movement is structured in this particular area.

"When they recruited these two, they were kids, just children. This is what bothers me they don't really know what they're doing. I mean there's no ideology to it. The girl told me that her parents were burned to death in their own house, by whom she didn't know. She is now convinced that it was the same guerrillas

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who told her to come with them, so they could protect her.

"I talked to her yesterday, and this is the story she told me. After she had been suckered into being protected, she said, 'I want to leave.'

"They said, 'You can't leave now, because you're one of us, and if the army finds you, they'll kill you.' So she became a sort of hostage. And as she got more involved — she was sort of a political indoctrinator — she realized if she tried to leave the guerrillas would kill her, and she was led to believe that if she went over to the army, the army would kill her.

"This girl was eventually captured. She had gone into town for supplies. After she was captured, she tried to run away but was caught again. Now she realizes the army isn't going to kill her, and she's cooperating. I think it was a relief to her, once she realized she wasn't going to be killed. She's loose at the base, walks around on her own, no guards. She's there for her own protection.

"The other captured guerrilla was actually what we call a combatiente, one of the combat people. This kid was also brought into the guerrilla movement by coercion. He is one of the mountain people who go down to the coast to work on farms. There are groups of agitators among these migrant workers. They talked to this kid: 'Join us and you're gonna have this, that and the other.' He didn't know what they were talking about.

"Finally, they came and said, 'Ah, we've put a name on you.' They gave him a surname. He forgot it, kept working. When he got ready to go back to his village, they said, 'All right, you're one of us now, and when you go back we want you to do some things for us.' He said, 'Sorry, but I'm not interested.'

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that you're one of us, and you either do what we tell you, or he's gonna tell the army that you're one of us. So they'll kill you anyway. You may as well stay with us.

"He went through training; then he was captured. He too went into town for supplies, and, stupid, he stopped at a tienda for a couple of beers with another guy. Somebody spotted 'em, recognized him; the minute he saw the army he started to run. He took six or eight bullets, a couple in the leg and shoulder.

"He woke up in the army hospital. When they first questioned him he denied everything. Once he realized that the army wasn't going to hurt him, he went over to their side and told them everything he knew. He's been instrumental in breaking up a lot of the guerrilla situations in that particular area. To me it's sad that poor people like these two kids are being manipulated.

The personero paused. "But they mentioned some things that I found interesting. They said the guerrillas crossed the border into houses on the Mexican side, where they picked up dynamite, supplies and money, and brought 'em back."

"How about weapons?"

"He mentioned dynamite especially, dynamite and money. He didn't talk about weapons," the personero answered. "He had done it. She had heard about it."

SOF had been told of aircraft, including helicopters, coming in from Mexico that couldn't be raised on any available radio frequencies. We now asked the personero if he knew anything about these sightings.

"Oh sure," he said, "that's common knowledge."

SOF replied, "It's not common knowledge in the States."

"No, it's not," he agreed. "They paint the guerrillas as being Robin Hoods. I've been into towns, I've talked to people, hundreds of peo-

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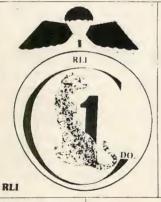
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ple. I talk to 'em every day about massacres by the guerrillas. This doesn't get into print. I took a press man with me yesterday, and I'm curious to see what he writes, because he represents one of the major news agencies in the United States. I'm especially curious because he heard everything I heard and he talked to the same people.

SOF asked, "Did you see the story in the Miami Herald last week, alleging massacres of villages near the Mexican border by the Guatemalan Army? What is your reaction?'

"Well," said the personero, "I've tried to see if there is any truth to it, and from everything I've been able to find out, if the massacre did occur, it was done by the guerrillas. It was hearsay: Somebody said that somebody said, in some remote place - they dream up a lot of this stuff. I have two theories: Number one is that it never took place and number two is that there could have been a massacre, a reprisal by the guerrillas, but I think we'd have heard about that."

"The story specified that helicopters were used in the operation.'

He shrugged. "They probably have more than we do. I have a pretty hard time moving from one place to another because of the shortage of helicopters. It would be mighty nice if we had some more, but we don't. The ones we do have are mainly down for parts. We can't buy any parts to fix 'em. Guatemala bought and paid for those Hueys, and then the U.S. government comes in and says, no parts.

"Those helicopters fly sick people in and out, teachers and medical people into remote places, places where there's no access except on foot. They bring out corn and coffee crops to market for the little cinqueros, and they fly 'em over a mountain to where they can get to a bus or truck. That's the largest use of helicopters in Guatemala.

"I've yet to see a story published in the United States about the mission that our air force flies to Arraba, a remote village. A little dirt strip is their only link to the world. I went there on a Sunday in May '81, because the air force had built a small hospital. Not from the air force budget, but from air force pockets, the pilots and wives and NCOs, plus the people in the town. Two weeks later that hospital was blown up by the guerrillas. That didn't make the papers in the States. This is what I don't understand.

"I think there are well-organized groups in the States, well-financed, so-called solidarity groups organized to create letter-writing campaigns. They might have five people in one constituency writing a thousand letters to their congressman. He gets a hundred letters that say, 'Don't help Guatemala or El Salvador, and he says, 'I didn't get one that says help 'em. I'm going to vote against 'em.'

"I have a standing invitation to any of these human-rights groups and to any congressman to come and see the truth. They come in and say, 'We saw, but we were only shown what they wanted us to see." Not too long ago, I asked one of these people to stay for the weekend. I told him, 'I'll take you anywhere you want to go. We'll go in my car; we can take a bus. The only place I can't take you is to talk to the guerrillas, because I don't know where they are, or how to find them. But if you want to go into a specific town I'll take you there and you can talk to anybody.

"He replied, 'I've got to go back to the States tomorrow.

"I said, 'I understand, you're very busy. Call me in a couple of weeks. Put it in your schedule. Come back.

'Um, well, that would be very nice,' he

said, 'but even if I did come the embassy wouldn't let me wander around loose for security reasons.' Was he interested in finding out the truth or not?

These are the people who say, 'We heard in Mexico that people are being massacred in Guatemala.'

"In the Guatemalan towns that border Mexico, the guerrillas have demanded money, corn or beans. If the villagers don't respond, then they come back at night and kill one or two. The next time the people fork over. Now the villagers are rejecting this. Now a government patrol will go into a town and the town will greet 'em. As soon as they see the army, they point out the guerrillas. So the guerrillas are beating it across the border as fast as they can because the people are kicking them out. They make it to Mexico and say, 'I'm a refugee. I'm running away from massacres that the Guatemalan Army's doing.'

When asked about the Miami Herald reports, the personero shook his head. "The border has been very violent. But the guerrillas are putting out these stories, and their own communities are after 'em.

"I feel very strongly that the guerrilla movement is ending in Guatemala. People now desire to end it. Word gets out: 'Listen, these guys have been threatening me for years, but the village down the road ran them out.'

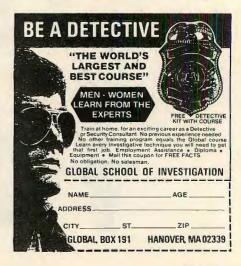
"I was in a town yesterday that had been totally abandoned to the guerrillas. Within the last two weeks, 10 percent of the town has moved back. They're willing to fight; before they were passive, and took whatever the guerrillas dished out.

"Through our community development councils we're beginning to address the problems of education and development. The people know this. They can sense it. That's why the president has such tremendous backing. I was in a village yesterday, way up in the hills. It's a six-hour walk to the closest bus stop. Refugees had run there because the guerrillas had told them they would kill them all because they refused to give them any more corn: 236 of 'em had come in two days before. While I was there fifty more came in.

"I talked to the leader of the group. I asked him, 'Do you hope to get back to your village?'

"He answered, 'Yes, we have hopes to go home, especially with the president that God sent us. " 突

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GUATEMALA

Continued from page 63

ing producing and selling handicrafts, including colorful blankets of remarkable quality. They are simple people who mix the Roman Catholicism brought by the Spanish conquest with their own Mayan traditions.

Most are also poor. Those living in isolated villages unreachable by road have little access to education or health care. The guerrillas exploit this isolation, and also play on the traditional enmity between the Indians and the more sophisticated ladinos - mestizos of mixed European and Indian stock. It is a potent propaganda brew referred to as the two Hs, hate and hope. Hate for the ladino overlord and hope for a less impoverished future. Guatemala's new president, retired Gen. Jose Efrain Rios Montt, had promised to address these grievances first with civic action programs and, eventually, through fundamental social reforms. But security in the countryside would come first. It isn't difficult to see why.

The residents of Nenton, a collection of adobe and cinderblock houses crowded into a tiny valley along the Rio Nenton only 20 kilometers from Mexico, told me they were forced to abandon their homes nine months ago. The guerrillas had killed 30 of the local men for refusing to assist the revolution.

Then the guerrillas cut the one road linking Nenton to the outside world and blew up the bridge over the river right in the middle of town.

The townspeople, mostly *ladinos*, had begun to return after the army stationed a company of troops in Nenton.

In Jacaltenango, a town crowded with Indian refugees from the surrounding mountains, the army was providing security and paying nearly 3,000 locals to build roads that would, quite literally, pave the way for future economic development.

The story was not much different just a few kilometers from El Quiche's capital of Santa Cruz. At the Guatemalan Army base outside the city, the base executive officer (XO) was cordial and cooperative to a fault.

Like almost all senior Guatemalan officers, he requested that his name not be published for security reasons. "Please



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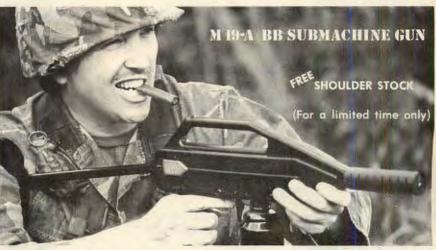
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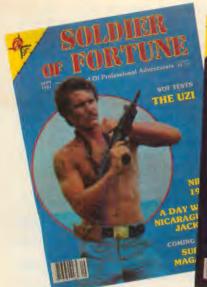
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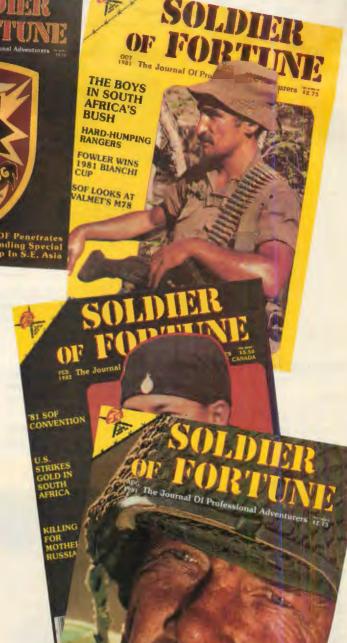
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understand," he said, "we all have families and we don't want them to become targets for terrorists."

Then he asked what I wanted to see. "What can I show you? We'll try to get you anywhere you want to go," he said.

"How about the civic action program?" I asked.

Thirty minutes later I was heading west in an army deuce-and-a-half along the main road out of Santa Cruz. Four Guatemalan troopers toting Galils came along as escort. This stretch of road had been the scene of a recent querrilla ambush in which seven government troops had been killed.

Our destination was the village of Laguna Lemoa, an Indian community perched on high ground overlooking the highway and an idyllic lake. Seven klicks out of Santa Cruz we turned off the paved road onto a dirt track that led to the village.

Laguna Lemoa was a case study in what had been happening in Guatemala. Guerrillas had come into the village to recruit and to intimidate those who might be supporting the government. A few families had gone with the guerrillas. Those who remained fled, fearful that the guerrillas would return and kill them. The army then posted a platoon in the abandoned village and put out the word that those who returned would be protected. A dozen families drifted back to the village with its cluster of rude adobe houses, tiny square and Spanish-style colonial church.

The troops were billeted in Laguna Lemoa's new primary school, built by the government in 1981. The fields surrounding the village were planted in corn. In the hills nearby, according to the army, guerrillas were waiting until the troops left and Laguna Lemoa would be unprotected.



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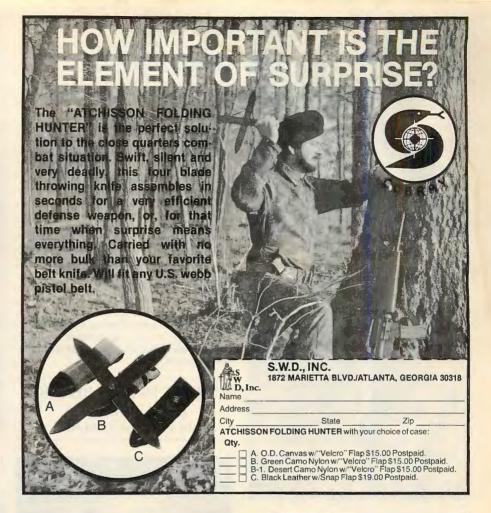
A government medical team from the Ministry of Public Health was holding sick call in the village when I arrived. That was a staple of the civic action program — providing on-site health care for people, many of whom had never been to a doctor before.

The platoon commander, a lieutenant with the unlikely first name of Byron, showed me around the village and then offered a lunch of Guatemalan Army field rations (cans of sardines, a soy-based gelatin, fruit juice, packets of peanuts and cigarettes).

While we ate, he explained the organizational structure of the guerrillas. There were four groups: "Todo comunista [all communist]," he said. They were the Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP), the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA), the Workers (Communist) Party of Guatemala (PGT), and the Armed Revolutionary Front (FAR). Of these, the EGP seemed to be the largest and, militarily, the most effective.

That afternoon, a group of campesinos came to the school to ask for a military escort to accompany them as they checked their fields and gathered livestock for the night. Without the soldiers, they feared guerrilla attack. The lieutenant assigned a sergeant and seven troopers. As the band of campesinos and soldiers left the village, anxious wives, children and several other men stood on a knoll with the lieutenant and watched them cross a small valley.

When they returned an hour later, the troopers had three additional civilians in tow: suspected guerrilla sympathizers caught carrying bundles of foodstuffs, apparently destined for nearby insurgents. The lieutenant ordered them taken to the tiny



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municipal office next to the church while he debriefed the sergeant.

By the time Byron and I reached the village office, a half dozen troopers were angrily interrogating the three suspects. The lieutenant ordered the troops out and then sat down to conduct his own quiet interrogation.

The three gave patently evasive answers about where they had been going and why they had been carrying large quantities of food. One, a shabbily dressed but hard-asnails Indian campesino about 30 years old, was openly defiant and at first refused to answer any questions at all.

"Comunista," said the lieutenant.

The three were shoved onto the truck when it arrived at dusk to pick me up. As we pulled out of the village square, several Indian children I had met stepped out of their adobe houses to wave goodbye. It couldn't have been more obvious that if Byron's platoon had been leaving as well, these children and their parents would have wanted to come with us.

The war for Laguna Lemoa - and for so many other towns and villages in the Guatemalan highlands - was still far from being finished.

"BULLETS AND BEANS" IN GUATEMALA by Robert J. Caldwell



Guatemala's president, Jose Efrain Rios Montt; was interviewed by SOF writer Robert J. Caldwell during the journalist's recent visit to Guatemala. The interview was conducted at the presidential residence in Guatemala City.



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SOF: Why was the 23 March 1982 coup d'etat necessary and what are your primary objectives as the president of Guatemala? RIOS MONTT: First of all, I want to say that I didn't participate in any of the planning for the 23rd of March coup. One of the [coup's] main purposes was to clean up the administration. We wanted the law to be respected, and we wanted to administer justice.

SOF: What does administering justice require in Guatemala?

RIOS MONTT: It is the greatest challenge for the Guatemalari government. We have to recognize that there are 7 million Guatemalans. We have to take into consideration that justice has in the past been applied to a very limited number of people. SOF: What is your strategy for defeating the

guerrilla insurgency in the countryside? RIOS MONTT: We have defined that in a policy called builets and heans. We have to have security in the countryside. That's the bullets part, to have security for the people. The beans part means we have to give shelter, we have to give food, we have to give work, we have to give health and education. And at the same time, we have to integrate those people into the Guatemalan identity.

SOF: When you say "those people," are you speaking primarily of Guatemala's Indian nonulation?

RIOS MONTT: To say just Indians is like an excuse because about 90 percent of the Guatemalans have to become integrated.

SOF: So it's broader than simply addressing the grievances of the Guatemalan Indians? RIOS MONTT: The thing is that the majority of Cruatemalans have been excluded from the standards and norms of social development.

SOF: Are the leaders of the insurgency communists?

RIOS MONTT: The training they have



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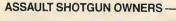
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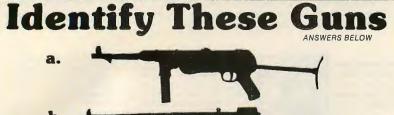


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received has been in Cuba and also in countries under the Russian boot. Consequently,

their ideology is strong. But the Guatemalan people are not ideological. It is the socioeconomic conditions in Guatemala that make subversion possible.

SOF: Would you say the solution to the insurgency is more political, social and economic than military?

RIOS MONTT: That is the reality, and that is the way we have to see things. In the last regime, before 23 March, everything was done with weapons, but now we are trying to battle with social, political and economic solutions as well.

SOF: Could you be specific about whether the guerrillas are receiving outside assistance and, if so, where that help is coming from?

RIOS MONTT: We have information that Cuba is the country providing most of the outside assistance and support to the guerrillas for their activities. There are also a lot of U.S. dollars that come to them.

SOF: From private sources in the United States?

RIOS MONTT: Mainly from organizations, I would say. Right in Washington there is an organization, a very big organization, that has a lot of credibility. It calls itself something like the Democratic Front Against Repression in Latin America. It has a big publicity operation and it is believed. I say we should be believed as well: we who have been in power since last March and haven't yet received the authorization to buy spare parts for our helicopters.

SOF: Are the guerrillas receiving any assistance from Nicaragua?

RIOS MONTT: Yes.

SOF: What kind of assistance?

RIOS MONTT: Nicaragua is a center for training guerrillas, and it also provides arms and ammunition

SOF: How do these arms from Nicaragua reach Guatemala?

RIOS MONTT: If we knew exactly how, we would have stopped them.

SOF: In the months immediately following the 23 March coup, the Guatemalan Army was reported to be killing Indians indiscriminately in the highlands, especially in the areas bordering Mexico. Were these reports true and, if so, have these repressive tactics been abandoned by the army?

RIOS MONTT: First of all, that was not true. The army was not the one that was doing those killings. The guerrillas were doing the killing. We have captured some documents in which the guerrillas criticized themselves for that kind of action. Then they started lying, saying that the army was doing those things.



SOF: Some of these alleged massacres were reported by refugees living in camps across the border in Mexico. Weren't those reports from refugees .

RIOS MONTT: If people dressed as soldiers come and they identify themselves as the army and then they attack you ... then, yes, those Indians who run away will say they were attacked by the army.

But we know, being in this position, that we haven't been giving orders to do these things. And we have not done anything like that.

SOF: According to the best information that I can obtain, the army under previous governments did employ some extremely repressive tactics. Have you given specific instructions for the army not to repeat the repressive tactics sometimes used in the past?

RIOS MONTT: I am a general. I don't want my officers to have dirty hands.

SOF: What kind of assistance would you like to receive from the United States? RIOS MONTT: I would like it to be understood that we here in Guatemala are fighting a war that is also a war for the United States and that we've had to fight without the help of the United States.

We have asked the United States to lift the restrictions and allow us to buy spare parts for our helicopters. Our army is small and our armament is less effective than that of the guerrillas. Therefore, we ask the United States to understand our position.

SOF: You have banned all political activity in Guatemala, but you have also promised to schedule presidential and congressional elections in the future. Can you say now when those elections will be scheduled?

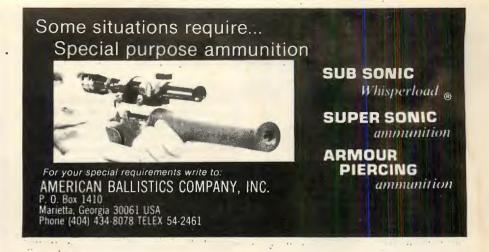
RIOS MONTT: We have an obligation to consolidate our institutions so that, later on, Guatemala could have a free political life. We want this in the shortest time possible. I have in mind 30 months, more or less.

SOF: Some of your supporters describe your task as that of one honest man trying to change a society that, in some respects, has been corrupt for three centuries. Can one man do that by himself? RIOS MONTT: No, one man cannot do that. But God can do it.

SOF: How would you describe the influence of your personal religious convictions on your conduct as president, and on the aspirations you have for your country?

RIOS MONTT: I have a Christian attitude. Acting as a Christian can influence the whole government in working for honesty, for truth — and for justice. 突







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EDITORIAL

Continued from page 22

gress, D-Pa. "Jane Fonda was wrong, but her aggressive attacks on those who served their country honorably will never be forgotten. She is the best known of those foolish and befuddled Americans whose actions have resulted in the establishment of oppressive cruelty as deep and penetrating as any the world has ever seen."

Duncan Hunter was a platoon leader with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and is now also a member of Congress, R-Calif. "There is no doubt that Jane Fonda's alliance with the North Vietnamese communists contributed to their military effort against American soldiers. Every mother, father and loved one of Americans who were killed over there must decide for themselves what fault she should bear; I don't believe she will fare well when those personal and private judgments are made."

Larry DeMeo was a company commander with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and he now works for the Veterans Administration. "Jane Fonda's real crime lies not so much in her undeniably treasonous activities, but rather in the fact that those activities encouraged the enemy to endure and so lengthened the war. Thousands of Americans and millions of Southeast Asians have died and are still dying as a result."

Leo Thorseness is a retired Air Force colonel in Santa Monica, Calif., Jane Fonda's home town. He was a POW for over six years. "Jane Fonda is an American embarrassment. In time of war, she went to North Vietnam, where she spit on the United States, posed for pictures in an antiaircraft gun that was used to shoot down U.S. aircraft, made propaganda broadcasts to our troops, and then came back to the United States and laughed in our national face about it. I believe she was a traitor, and I just don't understand why she was never formally charged with treason."

Red McDaniel spent over six years as a POW. He is now a retired Navy captain in North Carolina, and is the author of Scars and Stripes (A.J. Holman, 1975). "When I was shot down in 1967, I was tortured regularly and methodically from the day I arrived in prison camp, and that happened to all the other prisoners with me. In 1969, for instance, the North Vietnamese found out

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about an escape attempt and kept me awake for seven days and seven nights, kneeling on pitted concrete with my hands tied over my head, my legs in irons. I received anywhere from 50 to 200 lashes with a fan belt each day, and finally three hours of electric shock torture. I know of at least 20 other prisoners who were similarly tortured over that event, and Ed Atterbury was tortured to death. When Jane Fonda says we weren't tortured, I just don't know what to say - would our scars convince her?"

Tom Pauken served as an adviser with MACV, and is now the director of ACTION, an umbrella agency of the executive branch that includes the Peace Corps and VISTA. "Jane and Tom and all their friends are the vanguard of the radical left wing, and they'll use whatever works to bring our system down. Civil rights, the Vietnam War, air pollution, nuclear power plants - if they think it will arouse great masses of people against the government, they'll use it. Of course, they're very insincere about what they say - look at Vietnam, where they were crying out against our heartless violence, and then look at what they've done to protest the communist blood bath that's been going on there since 1975 — absolutely nothing. That ought to tell you a lot about them.'

Gen. William Westmoreland was the commander of all U.S. Forces in Vietnam for much of the war. "I believe it's rather disturbing that an individual so much in the public eye would have taken it upon herself to resist foreign policy that had been decided upon by elected officials, and it's really unconscionable that she would have made such a career out of undermining duly constituted authority. She had a very destructive effect on military morale, and it seemed she did everything she could to tear down pride of service to country and to turn enlisted men against their officers. Of course, she played a major role in the disillusionment that many Vietnam veterans later felt. I first thought that she was quite bright, but rather naive, and that she had simply been taken in by propaganda. Upon reflection, however, and in reviewing her long record of destructive opposition to the institutions of our society, I believe there is considerable evidence that she has been intentionally subversive and has been attempting to bring down the American system from within all along."

Her best-selling Jane Fonda's Workout Book was panned in a review titled "Stretch Marx" that appeared in the 16 August 1982 issue of The New Republic. The book is an array of exercises sandwiched between an opening account of her awakening to the radical political left and a closing emotional attack on capitalism and corporate greed as the sources of all ills in America.

As revealed in the February 1982 issue of the libertarian magazine Reason, the money earned by her movies, her exercise salons and her book goes to the Campaign for Economic Democracy, the thinly veiled political vehicle used by her husband, Tom Hayden, to promote the institution of centrally controlled socialism in America. That's spelled C-O-M-M-U-N-I-S-M, folks.

But Fonda isn't crazy. She and Hayden and the dangerous people behind her have learned the lessons of the '60s: Because they know that communism, openly announced, won't sell in this country, their true goals will not be mentioned again, in the Castro tradition, until they have clawed their way to power. They are well organized, methodical and blindly devoted to their cause.



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ENIN said that communists would hang

I the last capitalist with rope that he had

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"state of open hostility," which requires the existence of any "enemy." And an early U.S.

Supreme Court case establishes the treason

implicit in Fonda's posing for pictures in that

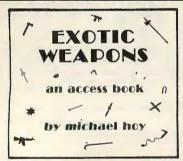
-Respublica vs. Carlisle, 1 U.S. 35, 38 (1778)

Her radio broadcasts seem to justify still another charge of treason, but all this may be beside the point: While Fonda seems to have committed treason during her visit to Hanoi in 1972, her present public image is such that the probability she will ever be charged and tried as a traitor is almost nonexistent. But we should all recognize the gravity of her action, and keep our eyes open to the fact that she is still working toward the same end: Since the fall of South Vietnam in 1975, she has continued both her fight against free enterprise as an economic system and her unquestioning support for communism.

In the summer of 1979, when the bloodbath taking place in Indochina at the hands of the communists was becoming unacceptably blatant, a number of formerly prominent antiwar figures, including Joan Baez, Daniel Ellsberg and the Berrigan brothers wrote open letters of condemnation that were printed in national newspapers. They begged Fonda to join them, but she refused, apparently still believing that communist governments can do no wrong.

Tom Carhart was an infantry platoon leader with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam, and is now a lawyer in Washington. 沒

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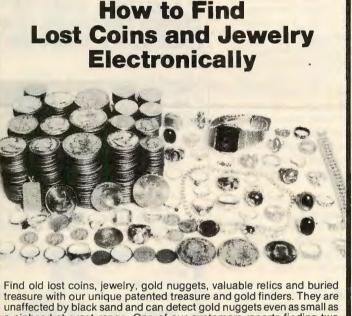
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Continued from page 17

HANKS FOR WORD WAR ...

Soldier of Fortune would like to point out that the article, "Word War," by Robert Elegant, was reprinted by permission from the August 1981 issue of Encounter Magazine of London, England. The article appeared in our December 1982 issue, and was very well received by our readers. We'd like to thank Encounter and Elegant for an excellent article. 灾





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Continued from page 36

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from "Still in Saigon" by Charlie Daniels

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Vietnam Combat Scene

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